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Officer killed in Lebanon

By MARGOT DUDKOVITZ

First-Lt. Eyal Shimoni, 21, of Kibbutz Ashdot Ya'acov Meuhad was killed and three soldiers lightly wounded when 13 IDF and South Lebanese Army positions throughout the security zone came under heavy bombardment yesterday morning. Shortly before dawn, Hizbullah forces pounded IDF and SLA positions with intensive mortar, artillery, and rocket fire. Shimoni,



Eyal Shimoni

commanding a Merkava tank set out to assist an SLA position north of Rehan. The tank received a direct hit by a Sager missile. Shimoni was mortally wounded by shrapnel and two other soldiers in the tank, Yuval Dem, 21, and Shahar Ben-Adir, 19, were lightly wounded. Dem and Ben-Adir were evacuated to Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed.

See **LEBANON**, Page 15

Families leave Ras al-Amud



Police officers remove Peace Now demonstrators from a rooftop in Ras al-Amud before the families moved out later yesterday evening.

By ELLI WOHLGELERENTER and JAY BUSHINSKY

After four days and a full night of discussions, a compromise reached yesterday brought about the peaceful evacuation of the Jewish families from Ras al-Amud last night.

The agreement, signed by Dr. Irving Moskowitz, who owns the building that was occupied, and

temporary." Shimon Gaznov said he and five colleagues planned to get to work today on putting up partitions and laying ceramic tiles.

"We're here because we believe in it," said Gaznov.

Settler spokesman Matti Dan praised the deal, saying it didn't matter whether three Jewish families or 10 single yeshiva students stayed.

PA rejects deal, Page 2

Terms of agreement

These are the terms of the agreement as announced by the Internal Security Ministry spokesman and circulated by the Government Press Office.

- The families will voluntarily leave the houses at Ras al-Amud at this time.
- Ten people will remain behind in the houses to protect and maintain the properties.
- Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to derogate the rights to said houses, their maintenance or use.
- Nothing in this agreement will derogate the legal authority of the government and its delegates from acting in accordance with the needs of public order and security.

PM conveys condolences to Egypt over terror attack

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday conveyed his condolences to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak over the death of 10 people, most of them German tourists, in an attack on a tour bus in Cairo by suspected Moslem terrorists.

"All Israeli citizens join in Egypt's grief over the terrorist attack against innocent people," Netanyahu said in a message. "All enlightened governments in the world should join in fighting the malignant scourge of terrorism that threatens us all."

Foreign Minister David Levy also sent condolences to his German and Egyptian counterparts, Klaus Kinkel and Amr Moussa, asking that they convey the sympathy of the government and people of Israel to the families of the victims and hoping for the speedy recovery of the wounded.

Full story, Page 6

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NEWS

in brief

Two die on roads

Three-year-old Wahil Bin Mustafa Hajouj was struck and killed yesterday by a car in his village near Acre. Police officials said the toddler had wandered outside his family's yard and crossed a road, when a car driven by a 27-year-old woman struck him. Haya Baruch of Kiryat Yam, 45, died after her car struck a tree in the town's IDF Square shortly after midnight yesterday. She died later in Rambam Hospital.

Police source: Schwartz was not kidnapped

Ya'acov Schwartz, the 63-year-old Bnei Brak man found tied up in a burning abandoned building in Ashkelon last Friday, was not a kidnap victim, a senior source in the Lachish District police said yesterday. He said the police reached this conclusion because of contradictory versions of events provided by family members and because these versions did not match the physical evidence.

Car thefts up

Car thefts rose by 30% in 1997 over last year to 37,377, according to police and insurance officials meeting in Ra'anana yesterday. Most popular are Subarus, Mitsubishi's and Fiats. In 1992, 40% of the cars were not recovered. Today the figure is 66%. A police spokesman said that most of the cars go to the Palestinian Authority.

Mandela to receive honorary BGU doctorate

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev will today award an honorary doctorate to South African President Nelson Mandela in a ceremony in Cape Town, to be attended by Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and university president Prof. Avishai Braverman, a university statement said.

GSS: Hamas cell planned to kidnap mayor

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The General Security Service has arrested six armed members of a Hamas cell accused of planning an attack on the Jerusalem Shopping Mall in Malha, and of plotting to kidnap Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and another unnamed public figure, Channel 1 reported last night.

Two suspects are from Jerusalem and four are from the West Bank. They were reportedly arrested a day before they planned to carry out the Malha attack with weapons in their possession. The army said they were arrested on August 19.

Some cell members were caught after checking out the mall while carrying bags with nails to test security there. They led the GSS to other gang members, reports said.

The cell was believed responsible for a bomb attack on Neveh Sha'anan Street near the old Tel Aviv bus station in January, which wounded 12 people.

It was also believed connected to

the so-called Tzurif Cell whose members were accused of carrying out the Apropro cafe bombing in Tel Aviv on March 21, killing three women and the bomber.

The two Jerusalem gang members have already been charged in the Lod Military Court, the television said. They were charged with planning to attack the mall and kidnap Olmert, and apparently also in connection with the Neveh Sha'anan bombing.

Jerusalem Police Chief Yair Yitzhaki said that Olmert and the other targeted personality had been on special watch for the past month, LHM reported.

Security was also reinforced recently at the Malha mall. Many guards were stationed, and in addition, strict searches were carried out with the help of electronic devices, outside the entrances to the larger chain stores and at some other shops.

LHM reported that undercover guards have also been stationed in crowded areas of the mall.

PA officials: Jews must leave Ras al-Amud

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED RAJIB

The Palestinian Authority Cabinet met last night to discuss the arrangement reached by Israel to resolve the Ras al-Amud crisis as Palestinian officials, raising the prospect of violence, rejected any deal that allows Jews in the Jerusalem neighborhood.

"There is a limit to all patience," PA chief Yasser Arafat said.

"There is no doubt that these events will cause a dangerous situation in the region."

Arafat demanded the evacuation of all Jews from the building bought in Ras al-Amud. He said otherwise this would represent another type of Jewish settlement, which he termed a "gross violation of the agreements [with Israel]."

Islamic and nationalist groups issued a call to Palestinians last night to arrive in Ras al-Amud after mosque prayers today for what they said would be massive protests against the Jewish presence in the area.

"This is not a compromise," Faisal Husseini, PA minister

responsible for Jerusalem, said. "This merely turns the building into a religious seminary." PA officials warned Israel that Palestinians might riot today after mosque prayers this afternoon unless all of the Jews were evacuated from the building. Palestinian radio and newspapers raised their rhetoric to a nearly fever pitch, calling for Moslems and Arabs to join in the defense of Jerusalem.

"This will be a long war that will exact a high toll," an editorial in the PA-controlled *Al Hayat al-Jadida* said.

"Netanyahu knows what will be the extent of expected casualties from this war but he continues. The spark of this war could be set today or next year."

But privately PA sources said they were not interested in a violent confrontation with Israel.

Marwan Kanafani, aide to Arafat, said he still hopes the problem will eventually be solved to the satisfaction of the Palestinians.

"I think Netanyahu is creating a problem but we hope he will solve this issue before confrontations and anger take place," he said. "We want to say that

Netanyahu has the political and moral responsibility to put an end to this matter by evacuating the building and return to serious discussions with President Arafat to reach an agreement in the negotiations."

The Palestinian Legislative Council ended its session yesterday with a call for an investigation into the death of Marwan Ma'ali, a Palestinian held in administrative detention and found dead on Tuesday. Palestinian and human rights organizations allege that the 31-year-old Ma'ali was tortured.

Ma'ali, a father of three, was arrested on August 4 following the suicide bombings in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market. He was served with an administrative detention order for two months and was not allowed to receive visits from his family.

In a joint statement by the Addameer Association and the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, Ma'ali was said to have been ill. They said Israeli authorities were negligent in its treatment of him.

An IDF spokesman said Ma'ali was found hanging in his cell.

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Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the king of spades, ace of hearts, king of diamonds and the 9 of clubs.

In the second drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, queen of hearts, jack of diamonds, and the 7 of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Paysis Hazak drawing, ticket number 689231 won NIS 1 million, while number 023813 won the car.

Tickets 144349, 534421, 660652, 680865, 792056, 008209, 528321 and 276707 won NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 76124, 49939, 73070, 24292, 82459, 95673, 73015, 43070, 85956, 92214, 72256, 20315, 19243, 55991, 77286, 49752, 14360, 62362 and 28611 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 327, 554, 309 and 676 won NIS 100.

Tickets ending in 34,70, and 60 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 97 and 81 won NIS 20, and tickets ending in 0 and 7 won NIS 10.

THE JERUSALEM POST
Israel - from every point of view



Irving Moskowitz's lawyers Dan Avi-Yitzhak and Eitan Geva before the High Court session concerning Ras al-Amud. (Ariel Jerolimski)

Barak slams Ras al-Amud deal

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Opposition leader Ehud Barak yesterday rejected the Ras al-Amud compromise for permitting settlers to remain at the site, and accused the government of caving in to extremists.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu briefed Barak on the compromise yesterday afternoon, before a deal was closed.

Barak said that if those who would remain in the building were police, border police or municipal inspectors, then that would mean that the government has regained control of the situation.

"But if they are yeshiva students, then the situation hasn't changed and the government has caved in to the dictates of extremists, which is very dangerous," Barak said.

"I told the prime minister he should have gotten together the attorney-general and heads of the GSS and police, and prevent the inhabitation of Ras al-Amud before it started, for reasons of very real danger to public safety," Barak said.

"I hope what is called a compromise will not cause an explosion which will cost human lives and chances for peace," he added.

Meretz party leader MK Yossi Sarid called the deal "a rotten compromise which must not be accepted."

Sarid also asked the State Comptroller to examine the amount of money Netanyahu received from Irving Moskowitz in past years to determine whether the Florida millionaire had undue influence over the prime minister.

Sarid also asked for a probe into how much money Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and Minister of Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani received from Moskowitz, alleging "it appears as though Moskowitz took a fortune out of his pocket so that he could put the three of them in his pocket."

National Infrastructures Minister Ariel Sharon accused the government of caving in to Palestinian pressure.

Barak meanwhile said he agreed to meet Third Way leaders on Sunday to discuss their proposal for a national unity government.

But Barak didn't give the idea much chances of being carried out.

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Deal brought to court
Irving Moskowitz was absent when his petition came up in the High Court of Justice yesterday. So were the nine persons renting the Ras al-Amud apartments who had joined him in the petition to ask that the police not evict them.
Instead, attorneys Dan Avi-Yitzhak and Eitan Geva presented the case, arguing that it was unreasonable not to uphold their right to use the property.
Justice Theodor Or asked if a compromise could be worked out. A short while later, settler spokesman Matti Dan came rushing into the courtroom: "An agreement has been reached. We will maintain a Jewish presence at Ras al-Amud, albeit a slightly smaller one." *Batsheva Tsur*

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Kol Hakavod to Dr. Irving Moskowitz and the courageous Jews who are not afraid to exercise their right to live in our eternal capital, JERUSALEM.
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Report: Czechs gave Israel SS-21 missile

By STEVE RODAN

Israel secretly obtained a Russian SS-21 ground-to-ground missile warhead from Czech intelligence earlier this year, according to a complaint filed with Prague's district attorney.

According to the anonymous complaint, the conventional warhead was lent by the Czechs to Israel without the knowledge of the Czech army unit responsible for the equipment. It was later returned without incident.

Prague district attorney Jindra Janacova said he has decided to launch an investigation although anonymous complaints are usually not acted upon.

The complaint said the SS-21 warhead was lent to Israel on the basis of a secret agreement between

Israel and Czech intelligence services to examine the combat qualities of Russian equipment in the arsenals of Israel's Arab enemies.

The Prague newspaper *Pravo* said according to the agreement the Czechs should have been present during the Israeli disassembly of the warhead. The newspaper said if the allegation was true it would seriously threaten the defense capability of the Czech Republic and those Czechs responsible for the transaction could be charged with espionage.

Czech officials have dismissed the complaint. Defense Minister Miloslav Vyborny called the story mere speculation.

Here in Israel, the defense ministry did not reply to requests from *The Jerusalem Post* for a comment.

Swiss given 12,000 survivors' names who need assistance

Beneficiaries to be first recipients of Swiss humanitarian fund

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The World Jewish Restitution Organization has given the Swiss government a list of 12,000 Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe expected to be the first beneficiaries of the Swiss humanitarian fund.

In a brief and bizarre event that blurred lines of responsibility for the fund, Israel Singer, secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress, handed two thick books of names of survivors, from 14 European states, to Switzerland's ambassador to the US, Alfred Defago on Wednesday.

Meeting at the Swiss Consulate in New York, Singer and Defago made brief statements, but declined to answer reporters' questions. It was implied, however, that the 12,000 survivors would receive \$1,000 each. Payments theoretically could begin within weeks.

The lists were compiled by survivor organizations in Eastern Europe, working with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. "The Swiss government believes that we should meet the needs of these Holocaust survivors as

quickly as possible. Therefore, we are looking toward a distribution of these funds without further delay," Defago said in New York, two days after Switzerland accused the WJRO of delaying aid to survivors.

Benjamin Meed, head of the American survivors organization, also gave Defago a privately published registry of survivors in the US.

The Swiss government has no direct role in allocating the fund. Meed, who has been promoted to the fund's seven-member executive, took the seat originally planned for Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, who declined to participate. Before Meed's appointment this week, the seat was held temporarily by WJC president Edgar Bronfman.

The fund, which was legally established by the Swiss government on March 1, includes Swiss Francs 170 million donated by Swiss banks and industries.

The fund is run by the Swiss Jewish executive and council, which agreed at its first meeting, on July 7, to release SF 17 million to needy Jewish and non-Jewish Nazi victims in Eastern Europe.

New book on Dakar sub banned

Jerusalem Post Staff

Tel Aviv District Court yesterday temporarily banned the sale of a book about the disappearance of the Dakar submarine after state prosecutors claimed it endangered national security.

Hundreds of copies of the book were ordered off bookstore shelves. Author Col. (Res.) Mike Eldar said police searched his house and confiscated several copies of the book as well as other documents.

At a press conference Wednesday Eldar demanded that an independent commission investigate the sub's disappearance as there had been no concerted effort to find the craft which went missing in 1968 with 69 crew members aboard.

The IDF Spokesman, commenting on Eldar's claims, said that both the IDF and the Navy were "sorry about the cynical use of the feelings of the Dakar victims' families to advance sales of his book." Stories about the press conference were censored by the IDF until today.

In the book, Eldar says there is increasing evidence that shortly before its disappearance, the Dakar, on its maiden voyage, changed course for Egyptian waters. The Dakar was carrying a new piece of equipment that was supposed to detect enemy radar systems, and the sub's commander may have decided to test it off the Egyptian coast.



Syrian President Hafez Assad (left) meets with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria yesterday.

Assad praises Albright

ALEXANDRIA — Syrian President Hafez Assad yesterday praised US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for her efforts to get peace talks back on track, but rebuked Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for "closing the doors" to negotiations.

Speaking after two hours of talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Assad said Albright's tour of the region was filled with good intentions. "She wants to push the peace process forward, but desire is one thing

and the ability to implement fairly is another," he said.

"There is nothing going on that makes us optimistic and this is not new. We have not been optimistic since Netanyahu came to power," he added. "He is slamming the door in the face of everybody who wants peace."

"We are demanding that the peace process resume from where it ended," Assad also said. "It is not the right of the new government to cancel what the previous government agreed

on."

Mubarak said Egypt was upset with the Netanyahu government's treatment of the Palestinians.

"We are not happy with Israeli actions on the Palestinian issue, the destruction of Palestinian homes, its failure to implement the agreements, and its use of force to confiscate land," Mubarak said. "All these issues cause anxiety and hold up the peace process."

(News agencies)

Dudu Topaz gets hitched again

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

As a prelude to the new season for his variety show on Channel 2, Dudu Topaz, king of the TV ratings game, got hitched yesterday for the second time.

In a twilight ceremony at the ancient synagogue atop Masada, Topaz took school teacher Roni Chen for his bride in the presence of family and close-friends — mostly showbiz people.

The whole affair including a lavish dairy reception at the Hyatt Regency on the Dead Sea was a fantasy extravaganza worthy of the bridal scenes of any high-budget feature film.

The Hyatt public relations manager Sigal Lev, who was in charge of arrangements, was spokesperson for what may well be the most important production of her life.

For the past two weeks she worked almost around the clock to attend to every detail.

Hotel general manager Norman Rafelson was particularly excited by the luxury hotel's first celebrity wedding which he envisages will pave the way to many more.

Himself a member of the 50 plus age group, Topaz picked a woman young enough to be his daughter. He already has two sons: one born out of wedlock and the other, the product of his short-lived first marriage. He is known to be a good father.

Several guests, such as cigar chomping Yigal Shilon, turned up early to take advantage of the hotel's many facilities.

There wasn't much advice that Shilon could give the new groom, but if Topaz is serious about wanting to enter politics, he may profit from some tips from another invitee — former prime minister Shimon Peres.

At the ceremony itself, Peres

bleamed the couple and observed that "Moroccan charm had conquered Polish ratings."

In addition to a gold ring, Dudu gave Roni as a wedding present a forest green Rover 200, which was parked at the entrance to the hotel when they arrived from Masada.

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Edelstein: Karmiel mayor using immigrants for politics

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Karmiel Mayor Adi Eldar opposed construction of small apartments and even vowed to block their construction "with my own body," according to an article which appeared in a local newspaper in February 1991.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein's office published a copy of the article yesterday, saying that in pushing elderly immigrants into barricading themselves in a local absorption center, Eldar is simply trying to win political points.

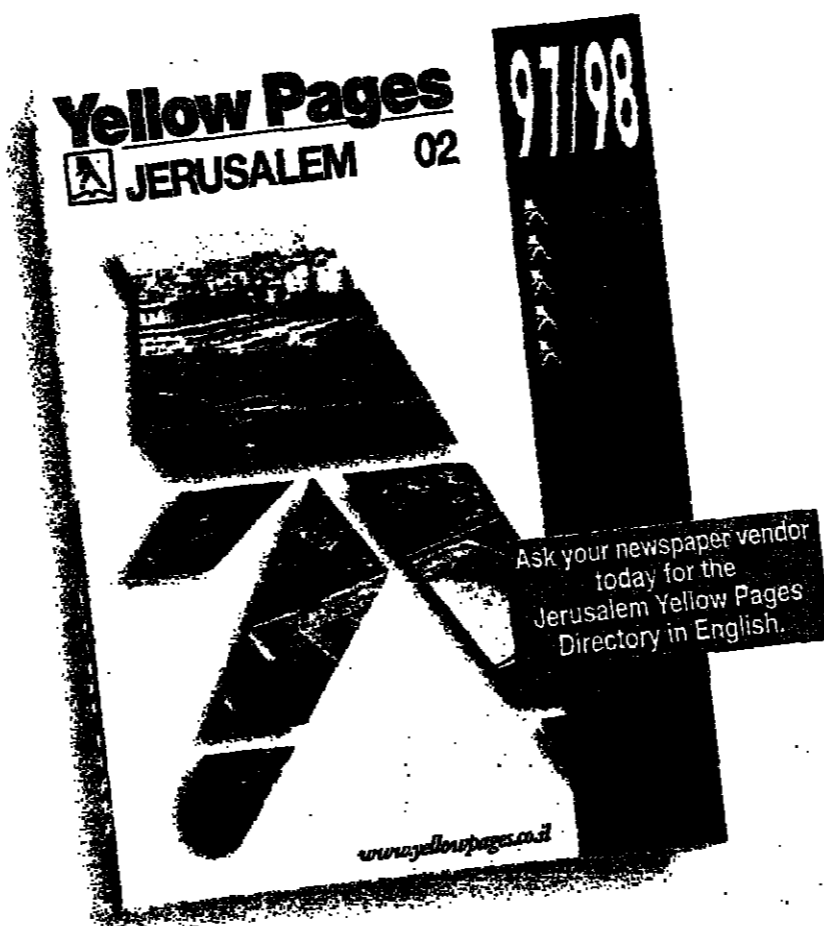
Eldar has been supporting the Karmiel elderly immigrants' fight for additional housing in the city, and yesterday told visiting members of the Knesset Aliya Committee that it might take "more drastic" measures to convince the government to build the needed housing.

"Eldar is playing a political game. He sends these people out on strike to become more popular with the immigrants, because elections are coming up soon," Absorption Ministry spokesman Yehuda Glick said.

Glick said National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who was housing minister at the time, confirmed that Eldar had indeed opposed the project to build 5,000 apartments of about 60 meters in Karmiel to meet the needs of the elderly immigrants.

However, a Karmiel Municipality official said the article misrepresented the facts, and that the plan had been to build "caravans, not apartments, which indeed Eldar opposed."

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Jews must al-Amud

Barak slams Re al-Amud deal

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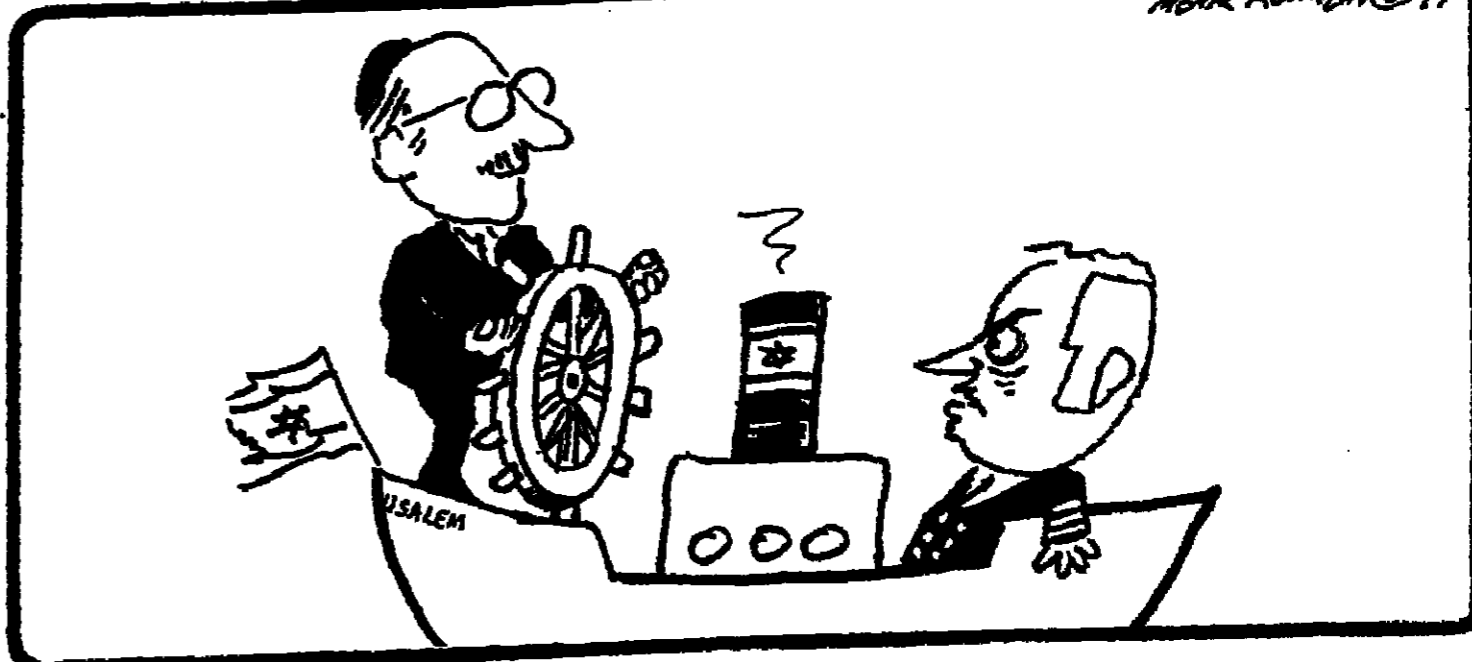
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An uneasy compromise

The uneasy compromise reached yesterday under which a Jewish presence, limited to 10 people, will remain in Ras al-Amud, while the families already there agree to leave the property purchased by Irving Moskowitz, neither ensures quiet in the short term nor reflects well on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's leadership capabilities.
As expected, the compromise follows the St. John's Hospice precedent of 1990, in which 150 Jewish settlers agreed to evacuate this Old City building, leaving behind a smaller group of male and female guards to protect the property. These "guards," as Herb Keiron reports in the News in Focus section of today's paper, have since married and even had children. Ten Jewish families now live in the hospice, renamed Neot David, and one would not be unduly surprised by a similar turn of events at Ras al-Amud.
The Palestinians certainly will not have forgotten this precedent, and yesterday's agreement between Moskowitz and the government is unlikely to prevent Palestinian protests planned for today. It is clear to all that the motives of those who moved into Ras al-Amud are not to promote Jewish-Arab harmony, despite Moskowitz's talk of building a well-baby clinic for Arab children, but to assert Jewish sovereignty within their physical presence.
Such a move is unnecessary. Just as secular Jews do not need to move into Mea She'arim to prove that Israel is a modern, democratic state, so too is there no need for Jews to move into the heart of Arab areas of the capital to prove Israel's hold on Jerusalem. Indeed, the whole crisis surrounding Ras al-Amud has given the Palestinians an unwarranted opportunity to once again capture international sympathy and erase from the world's all too short memory the recent pictures of Hamas bombs exploding in Jerusalem.
By giving Yasser Arafat a public-relations boost at the time he most needed it — the Palestinians are successfully portraying Ras al-Amud as a symbol of Israeli attempts to derail the peace process — Moskowitz and his agents are harming both the cause of a united Jerusalem and the diplomatic battle the government had been winning over the Palestinian Authority's failure to crack down on terror.

Last week's visit to the region by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was dominated by one topic: the need for the PA to abide by its commitment to fight terror. Seven days later, the diplomatic agenda has shifted to Ras al-Amud, described by the State Department spokesman as a "lightning rod for increased tensions" and the "kind of action which undermines the confidence so necessary to getting the peace process back on track."
Just as worrying as this sudden relaxation of the pressure on Arafat at a time when he should have been kept firmly pinned against the ropes has been the performance of Prime Minister Netanyahu during the whole affair. Netanyahu originally claimed he had no advance warning of Moskowitz's intention to populate his Ras al-Amud property, but subsequent reports have shown that the topic of Ras al-Amud was raised at a cabinet meeting earlier this month.
Once the families moved in, Netanyahu rightly stressed that the move "is not good for Jerusalem, is not good for the State of Israel... we think on sensitive issues we should be the ones making the decisions, and not maneuvered into them," but he then failed to act on these words. Instead of taking immediate action to remove the families, and thus nip the incident in the bud, Netanyahu procrastinated.
And worse was to come. After having allowed himself to be maneuvered into a corner by the Miami-based tycoon by not ordering the police at the outset to prevent the Jewish families from entering Ras al-Amud, the prime minister then proceeded to place Moskowitz's property rights above the legal opinion of Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, who argued that the families could be evacuated if there was reasonable certainty that the public order would be disturbed or public safety harmed.
The result of this inaction has been the degrading sight of senior government ministers holding negotiations with an American citizen over how many Jews can remain in Ras al-Amud — a picture which does little to strengthen signs of Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem. Netanyahu, had he been more determined earlier on, could have saved himself, and his country's capital, the embarrassment of this unnecessary episode.



Is anybody listening?

For some years now a search has been going in an attempt to discover the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence. The large radio telescope at the Arecibo observatory in Puerto Rico has been scanning the skies in the hope of picking up signals that would provide an indication that there are intelligent beings out there that might even be listening to us. So far to no avail, but the search goes on.
For some time now, I have been searching the local scene in the hope that somebody at the decision-making level in the government would listen to my warnings regarding the grave dangers facing civilians in the streets of our cities and our soldiers in southern Lebanon. But nobody seems to be listening.
After every act of Palestinian terror, the government imposes a closure, preventing the Palestinian population of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza from entering Israel. Presumably the physical safety of Israel's citizens takes precedence over the economic well-being of the Palestinians.
That is the rationale, and the only rationale, for this drastic measure. If it were intended as a punishment, it is certainly misplaced. The vast majority of the 150,000 Palestinians who work in Israel, and the families dependent on their income, have no connection with the suicide bombers sent into our cities by the terrorist organizations.
But it is obvious that the daily

entry of 150,000 Palestinians provides a convenient cover for those involved in the preparation of the terrorist outrages that strike us with frightening regularity. Camouflaged by the daily side of workers from Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, those involved in planning, organizing, and executing the terrorist outrages slip into and out of our cities many times until they are ready for the kill.
This is not to say that an act of terror is not possible even when the closure is in force, but there is no question that it is then far more difficult to carry out. Those who find it difficult to accept this logic should only look at the statistics. Most acts of terror have been committed during periods when there was no closure. Frequently, as in the last bombing in Jerusalem, they were carried out shortly after the closure had been lifted. It seems that the terrorists were only waiting for the closure to be lifted so that they could carry out their murderous design.
Why then is the closure imposed in the first place, and why is it inevitably lifted only to be

imposed after the next act of terror? Is anybody listening?
OUR losses in Lebanon seem to be without end. Although I have little sympathy for those who exploit the days of mourning for hysterical calls for an immediate and unilateral withdrawal of the

For the IDF to try to engage Hizbullah in guerrilla warfare is to engage the enemy on terms advantageous to him

IDF from southern Lebanon, I am convinced that the tactics applied by the Rabin and Peres governments, and since continued by the Netanyahu government, are wrong and have failed miserably. I have repeatedly called for a change in tactics.
For the IDF to try to engage Hizbullah in guerrilla warfare is to throw away the natural advantages that we could enjoy and to engage the enemy on terms advantageous to him. This is especially so since the unfortunate "agreements" reached with the Hizbullah after operations Accountability and Grapes of Wrath.
These agreements gave Hizbullah a license to attack IDF soldiers, while their bases in the villages of southern Lebanon remain immune to attack. All this,

while the threat that Hizbullah will launch Kayushas against the towns and villages in Galilee any time it claims that we have violated the "agreements" hangs over our heads.
It seems that, even if we tried, we could not have come up with more disadvantageous terms for our men on the front line.
Our strength lies not in our ability, at great risk, to track down individual Hizbullah terrorists, but in our ability to upset the whole Lebanese apple cart and thus strike a major blow at Syria's basic interests in the country it has essentially occupied, and from which it encourages Hizbullah to mount raids against the IDF.
Operation Peace for Galilee did bring peace to the Galilee for 10 years. But the precipitate withdrawal in 1985 into the present narrow security zone, followed by the limitations that Israeli governments have imposed on IDF operations in Lebanon, have made it clear to Hizbullah, and its Iranian and Syrian masters, that the rules of the game have changed to its advantage.
If Israel's strategy does not change, Hizbullah has every reason to believe that it will eventually wear us down to the point where we will withdraw to the border, and it will be able to mount its attacks from there into Israel itself.
Is anybody listening?
The writer is a former defense minister.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WORKING TOO HARD

Sir — MK Yossi Beilin's article in the Post of August 19, contains statements that have no relation to reality. How can he not be aware that there exist cities of refuge for terrorists in the PA areas? His assertion that Oslo minimized the danger of a surprise attack against Israel is absurd.
Beilin is working much too hard to make us believe Oslo is an unalloyed blessing when it was obvious from the beginning that it was flawed, more likely stillborn.
And the Labor government's failure to insist on Palestinian compliance, ignoring every violation, quickly disabused Yasser Arafat from any notion of compliance.
ARTHUR GRUDER
Jerusalem.

JUSTIFY DISCRIMINATION

Sir — In the US and most of the Western world, if a Jew purchases a home in a non-Jewish neighborhood and is prevented from living there by his neighbors on the basis of religion, the government would bring all legal and police forces to bear upon the neighbors to permit the Jew to live in the neighborhood.
In Jerusalem, if a Jew purchases a home in a Moslem neighborhood, the Israeli government, the US government, and the rest of the world (not to mention the neighbors) are bringing tremendous political pressures to prevent the Jew from living in or using his home as he sees fit.
Is this the new era of political correctness to justify discrimination against Jews?
ALLAN MORRIS
Tel Aviv.

LACK OF LOGIC

Sir — The lack of logic in Yossi Ben-Aharon's article ("Lock of True Peace," Sept. 8) is simply amazing. He describes correctly the rejection of Israel by the Arab world's entire intelligentsia. It should then be logical to assume that peace between Israel with Egypt and Jordan became possible because the governments of these

WHO IS THE SCOUNDREL?

Sir — A housewife, is no match for a research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University. She can't compile an opinion with such poisonous sophistication as Mark A. Heller does in "The message — not the medium" (September 5), positioning side by side "soldiers... convicted of manslaughter and rape" with Binyamin Netanyahu, who "inflamed" and "provided ammunition"; and Dan Naveh, who "was loud... strident... aggressive... unappealing"; and "Popolitika," (which)... encourages... gladiator panelists." But don't worry too much about either Netanyahu or Naveh, because — and here comes the gist — "The truth" can also be "told by a scoundrel."
Now, this ordinary woman, who even appreciates Popolitika for its straightforwardness and honest involvement; well, this woman — restraining herself from juxtaposing her own adjectives with Mark A. Heller — just wonders who is talking (or writing) loud, strident, aggressive and unappealing; who is inflaming, and who is here the scoundrel.
RUTH SCWHAB
Bnei Brak.

ARAB COUNTRIES ACTED AGAINST THE WILL OF THEIR PEOPLES.

However, Ben-Aharon's conclusion is just the opposite: peace will be possible only if "there is meaningful move toward democracy in Arab society."
DR. JACOB ROSIN
Netanya.

ERETZ YISRAEL

Sir — Referring to "The Golan Card" (September 16), Ruby Rivlin is badly misinformed about the history of the Golan Heights.
The Golan was always part of Eretz Yisrael. It is cited in the Torah and was inhabited by the tribe of Menashe. Golan, the name of a town in Bashan (it's Biblical name), was one of the "cities of refuge," and the area is mentioned in writings of the Biblical prophets and throughout the Talmud. Scores of ancient Jewish towns on the Golan — many dating back to the Second Temple period — testify to its significance in Jewish history.
In the 19th century, Jews purchased land and settled in the Golan, along with other parts of Eretz Yisrael. In 1916, Britain and France signed a secret agreement (the Sykes-Picot Treaty) for a partition of the Middle East. The Golan was offered to the French, and in 1923, Britain redrew the boundary lines and illegally ceded the area; the deal was ratified in 1935.
DR. MOSHE DANN
Jerusalem.

Beilin's latest folly

The first rule of tennis strategy, we were taught as youngsters, is, "Never change a winning game; always change a losing one." In tennis, where there are only two possibilities — win or lose — that advice makes sense.
In the real world, however, there are usually at least two possible alternatives to the status quo: better and worse. The rule of prudent statecraft, therefore, has always been: Better the enemy you know than the one you do not.
Since Oslo, Israeli diplomacy has been conducted as if we were playing tennis. We leapt into Oslo on the assumption that nothing could be worse than the infatuation, and in the four years since, far more Jews have been killed by terrorists than at any time in Israel's history. Now the chief architect of the Oslo agreement, Yossi Beilin, would have us unilaterally withdraw from Lebanon — once again because the present situation is deemed intolerable.
All the glaring flaws of the Oslo process were predicted by opponents of the agreement from the start. The first was imagining that by rescuing a bankrupt PLO from oblivion, we had secured a negotiating partner. For Yasser Arafat, diplomacy has never been more than war by other means.
The Arab intelligentsia, even in those countries with which we have relations, remains uniformly hostile. It has yet to produce one Shimon Peres fantasizing expansively about the glorious peace just around the corner. And on the Arab street, the murder of Jews remains a cause for celebration.
If, as his apologists maintain, Arafat must continue preaching jihad, proclaiming suicide bombers martyrs in a sacred cause, embracing Hamas leaders

HIS PROBLEM IS WISHLIFTHINKING — THE REFUSAL TO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD THAT CANNOT BE SOLVED BY AN INFUSION OF GOODWILL

within days of suicide bombings, and kissing little schoolgirls, singing lullabies about killing Jews in order to survive, then peace is not on the Palestinian agenda.
We dismantled our intelligence-gathering apparatus and subcontracted the fight against terrorism to the father of Palestinian terrorism. Predictably, the Palestinian-held areas have become virtual safe havens for terrorists.
The PA and Hamas play good cop/bad cop. While letting Hamas operate freely, Arafat is careful to maintain deniability for its actions.
The Oslo process has proven irreversible. The drumbeat of demands for "progress" — new agreements, further territorial concessions — both at home and abroad, is unceasing. Any attempt by Israel to reenter PA-controlled areas would place us in the role of international pariah. Even explicit acts of war, like the shooting at Israeli troops and civilians by Palestinian police last year, only resulted in condemnation of Israel.
Four years after the signing of Oslo 1, Israel finds itself being told by the US secretary of state that it should not let security concerns halt the peace process. What, one wonders, was the process about for us if not security concerns?
THE problem is not that Israel has, for the first time in history, mass-produced stupid Jews. For Dr. Beilin is an intelligent man. The problem is wishful thinking — the refusal to believe that there are problems in the world that cannot be solved by an infusion of goodwill.
The same type of delusional thinking is evident in the calls for unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon. Proponents of withdrawal are right that longevity is not sufficient justification for continuing past policy without reexamination. The Maginot Line was no more effective for having been long in place.
At the same time, it is insufficient to point at the tragically high rate of casualties and argue that anything must be better. That is basically what we are hearing today from proponents of withdrawal: "I'm not an expert, but..."
For 15 years there has been virtual unanimity among both the political and military echelons of the necessity of a military presence in southern Lebanon. Those who argue that such a policy is no longer sustainable have the burden of showing that the dangers it was meant to combat have either lessened or can be combated by other, less costly, means. They have not even attempted to do so.
Yet without such detailed analysis, we can have no assurance that even more lives will not be lost. Withdrawal, for instance, would likely necessitate more operations such as that in which 12 naval commandos lost their lives.
Israel does not have the luxury of doing what Sen. George Aiken once recommended that the US do in Vietnam: Declare victory and go home. We are already home, and the enemy is at our doorstep. How much more lethal would Hizbullah become once emboldened by having forced our retreat.
Calls for a negotiated settlement in Lebanon are fatally flawed by the assumption of a non-existent partner. Syrian dictator Hafez Assad currently enjoys hegemony over Lebanon — a far bigger jewel than the Golan Heights — and is able to bleed Israel through his Hizbullah proxies at no cost.
According to Daniel Pipes and other Syrian experts, Assad fears peace with Israel more than he wants the Golan. As a permanent casus belli, the Golan conveniently distracts attention at home from the domination of Assad's minority Alawi clan. Even if the Golan were returned, Assad could deny accountability for Hizbullah in the same way Arafat denies responsibility for Hamas.
Jews have suffered greatly, and continue to suffer, for the delusions of those who believe peace in our time can be achieved with the wave of a pen.
Enough already.
The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On September 19, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that Egypt objected to the partition of Palestine, alleging that in 1919 Britain promised the country to the Arabs. The Jewish Agency expressed surprise at this stand and quoted General McMahon's letter to the London Times which clearly showed that Palestine was never included in the British pledge to the Arabs.
Sentence of six months' imprisonment was passed on Arifh Kuncher of Rosh Pina for blowing the shofar at the Western Wall at the termination of Yom Kippur services.
50 years ago: On September 19, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that the US State Department was not committed to the partition of Palestine. Observers noted that such tactics arose from the hope that the UN Special Committee on Palestine Majority Report would be watered down before being accepted.
A 70-year-old rabbi was among the 19 persons detained in exten-

sive police and military searches in Jerusalem. Some damage was reported.
25 years ago: On September 19, 1977, The Jerusalem Post reported that the 36-hour strike in Lebanon netted 60 terrorists slain.
Heavy artillery barrages were fired at Israeli settlements in the Golan from Syrian territory. In all cases fire was returned, there were no Israeli casualties.
Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPTS

FROM OUT in cyberspace, just in time for Rosh Hashana, comes this set of options for the Tashlich ceremony.
Taking a few crumbs from whatever old bread is in the house lacks subtlety and religious sensitivity. Instead, consider these options:
For ordinary sins, use White Bread
For exotic sins, French Bread
For particularly dark sins, Pumpernickel
For complex sins, Multi-Grain

For twisted sins, Pretzels
For tasteless sins, Rice Cakes
For sins of indecision, Waffles
For sins committed in haste, Matza
For sins committed in less than 18 minutes, Shmura Matza
For sins of hutzpa, Fresh Bread
For substance abuse, Poppy Seed
For inhaling, Stoned Wheat
For committing arson, Toast
For committing auto theft, Caraway
For being ill tempered, Sourdough
For silliness, Nut Bread
For not giving full value, Shortbread
For war-mongering, Kaiser Rolls
For immodest dressing, Tarts
For causing injury or damage to others, Torts
For promiscuity, Hot Buns
For davening off tune, Flat Bread
For being holier than thou,

Bagels
For unfairity upbraiding another, Halle
For trashing the environment, Dumplings
For sins of laziness, Any Very Long Loaf
For sins of pride, Puff Pastry
For sins of the righteous, Angel Food Cake
For selling your soul, Devil's Food Cake
For lust in your heart, Wonder Bread

Those who do nothing

DAVID NEWMAN

The settlers have done it again. They have come, as they have been doing consistently for over 30 years, to pour boiling oil on the cinders and ensure that tension and conflict reach an even higher peak.

The settler movement, originating in the activities of Hanan Porat and Moshe Levinger in the immediate aftermath of the Six Day War, organized through Gush Emunim during the 1970s, and receiving government support and backing in the 1980s, has been, by far, the most successful form of political protest activity this country has ever witnessed.

Who believed that Levinger's attempt to settle in Hebron at the Park Hotel in 1968 would give rise to the present communities of Kiryat Arba and downtown Hebron - a community which very nearly succeeded in scuttling the Hebron Agreement.

Kahalani, Sharansky and Levy are as responsible as the settlers for this week's act of national folly

Who thought that the antics of the young settler movement in 1974 and 1975, running from hill-top to hilltop in Sebastia, would give rise to a network of communities consisting of over 130,000 residents in the mid-1990s. Most of Israel's planners and politicians laughed at the grandiose Gush Emunim plans presented to the Begin government soon after his election in 1977. They didn't even believe that the 100,000 Plan, prepared by the government itself in 1984, would ever be carried out, when in reality it has been implemented and expanded.

The right-wing governments of Begin, Shamir, and Netanyahu have diverted scarce national resources from the development towns, from the Negev and Galilee, to the middle-class West Bank settlements in an effort to create as many facts as possible which will prevent any form of peace process based on territorial compromise. One only has to look at the way in which the Oslo 2 map was drawn up, with its chessboard pattern of settlements, to know that even at the height of peace negotiations, the settlements were a major obstacle to achieving a full and final agreement.

And despite the fact that the national unity governments of the mid-1980s, and the Rabin administration of the 1990s, formally froze all new settlement activity, these were periods of major settlement consolidation, during which the West Bank communities grew by tens of thousands. The public rhetoric of the Labor Party leaders may have been anti-settlement but they gratefully used the settlements as a bargaining chip for future stages of the negotiations. Hanan Porat was there again at

Ras al-Amud this week. If there is a single personality who characterizes the West Bank settlement movement it is this politician-ideologue from Kfar Etzion. His famous roll of the eyes, his evoking of the Zionist enterprise, and the fact that, unlike most of his settler counterparts, he is a veteran kibbutznik, has helped maintain this image of the perpetual demonstrator, even though he has been a member of the Knesset political establishment for well over a decade.

For him and the myriad of groups which support his enterprise, the only true values of Zionism are land and settlement.

Everything else - peace, self-determination, safety, and security - are all secondary. In their eyes, none of the latter can be achieved if the former is not maintained. And by maintaining their hold over every last centimeter of land, they are destroying any possibility of achieving true and lasting security for their own children and grandchildren.

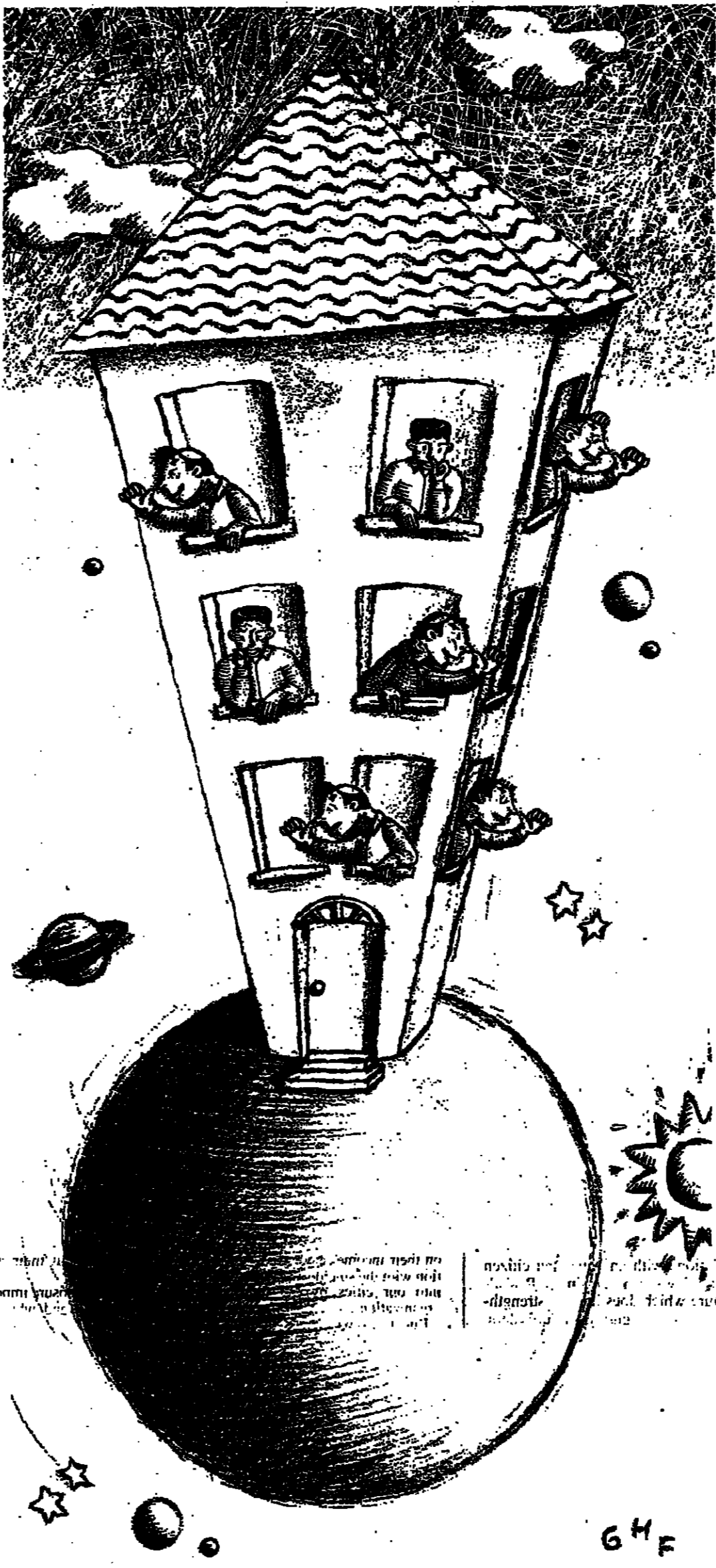
But one cannot totally blame these people. They believe deeply in their warped view of nationalism. They have never said anything else. They do not hold double values. And despite his political rhetoric, the actions (rather than the words) of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have proved, beyond doubt, that he supports the settler movement and its determination to scuttle the peace process. He has not done a single thing to prove otherwise. This, too, is his ideology.

But what of those politicians who argue otherwise? What of Avigdor Kahalani's Third Way and its stated "determination" following the 1996 elections to force the government to pursue the Oslo process? What of Natan Sharansky, the former fighter for human rights who, it would appear, no longer cares for the human rights of anyone who is not Jewish and has become identified with the extreme Right? And what of Foreign Minister David Levy, whose bombastic statements against the Ras al-Amud settlers are, like all of his other statements, simply for public display, lacking any intention of undertaking action which would deprive him of immediate political power?

These are the people who, unlike the settlers, do not believe in the supremacy of an ideology of land and settlement. But neither do they believe in the cause of peace, because were they to do so they would be prepared to help bring down this anti-peace government, this government which is leading us to war and violence.

These are the people who have it in their hands to avert the tragedy, but are doing nothing. They, as much as the settlers, cannot be allowed to evade their responsibility for the potential bloodletting which awaits us as a result of this week's act of national folly.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute of Social Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.



The limits of willpower

MARK A. HELLER

Ras al-Amud is a cruel practical joke on practically everyone in Israeli politics, but the main victim is Benjamin Netanyahu. By moving into a house bought by a rich, right-wing philanthropist from abroad - of the sort who helped finance Netanyahu's primary and general election victories - the new Jewish residents of Ras al-Amud have made Netanyahu very uncomfortable.

But according to the law enacted by the Labor-dominated government in 1967 (whose successors are now so vociferous in their criticism) and reaffirmed by the Likud-dominated government in 1981 (whose successors are now so confused in their search for an appropriate response), the transaction is perfectly legal. And although this legal envelope severely constrains Netanyahu's ability to reverse the action, it provides no defense against potentially serious local, regional, and international repercussions.

The reason is that there are different kinds of legality stemming from different kinds of law, and some of them are irrelevant to the political motives of the settlers and the political consequences of their actions.

The law which permits Irving Moskowitz and his proteges to act, and limits the government's ability to act against them, is positive law, the municipal law of Israel. It protects the property rights of individuals, provided those rights have been acquired through legitimate procedures, whether they be Jews in Ras al-Amud or Arabs in Mea She'arim or Beit Hakerem.

But the laws which unilaterally applied positive Israeli law to Jerusalem beyond the 1949 armistice line were inspired by natural or divine law, or at least, an Israeli interpretation of that law. This interpretation, needless to say, hardly persuades the Palestinians and most other Arabs and Moslems. Moreover, the consistency of this legislation with international law is problematic, at best, in the eyes of the rest of the world.

Thus, the contention that this particular action is perfectly legal, which would normally be a good argument-stopper, is only partially effective in the domestic debate. And since it fails to resonate with anyone else, it is irrelevant to the real issue, which is political.

If Netanyahu wants to reverse developments in Ras al-Amud in order to contain the political damage, his only legal recourse is to fall back on findings of overriding interest, such as public safety or national security. These are precisely the kind of pseudo-legal rationales that far less enlightened regimes have used throughout history to pursue their political agendas.

THE current dilemma is a direct outgrowth of the school of thought which argues that, while the Arabs and the rest of the world can talk, what matters is what Israel does. Like many other ideas which were once embraced for want of a better alternative, the notion of a unilateral fait accompli based on determination and willpower became a

myth, comforting but increasingly divorced from the fact that there are other forces and other wills at work.

Thus, Israeli political leaders since 1967 tried to convince themselves, the public, the Arabs, and everyone else that they could make Jerusalem (and the Golan Heights) non-issues by building settlements and passing laws which said they were non-issues. Even a usually sophisticated politician like Dan Meridor could argue that Israel had actually succeeded in this, that Jerusalem had already become a non-issue, and that it would have remained a non-issue if only Yitzhak Rabin had not said the words in Oslo that made it an issue once again.

But in the last few years, the most articulate and forceful proponent of the decisive role of determination and willpower has been Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Ras al-Amud dilemma is a direct outgrowth of the school of thought which argues that all that matters is what Israel does

Even before the intifada and before the peace process, this approach showed no sign of persuading anyone to accept Israel's position, but it could at least be sustained at relatively low cost. Since then, it has become a trap for Israeli leaders who are obliged to take account of Arab and international reaction. At Har Homa, this trap already scratched Netanyahu; in Ras al-Amud, it threatens to bite him even harder. Perhaps Netanyahu can take heart from another advocate of willpower and determination: his cabinet colleague Ariel Sharon. Sharon has declared that Israel should not back down in any way on Ras al-Amud, because it is very dangerous to respond to threats and intimidation from the other side.

"Today, it's Ras al-Amud," he says. "Tomorrow it will be something else."

If Sharon means to say that Israel should take into account the force field in which it operates, before it acts, rather than after, then the thrust of his advice is sound. But if he means to say that Israel should simply act unilaterally and persist in its actions, without any regard for the world outside its own drives, impulses, desires, needs, and interpretations of natural or divine law, then he is urging the prime minister to continue operating according to the same pattern of behavior that produced this dilemma. Some of us call it "determination and willpower." To others, it looks suspiciously like anism!

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

The Iranian tightrope

GERALD M. STEINBERG

American policies are failing. The Clinton administration has avoided a confrontation with Russia, fearing that a cutoff in aid would weaken Yeltsin and lead to a more radical and unstable Russian government. Similarly, the US gives priority to obtaining Chinese cooperation in trade, human rights and Asian security, and did not want to overlose the agenda by imposing sanctions for the transfer of military technology to Iran.

As a result, in Israel, some policy makers have argued for a more aggressive and unilateral Israeli policy with respect to Russian and Chinese sales to Iran. (A few years ago, the Foreign Ministry sought an agreement with the government of North Korea by which sales of missile technology would end. This effort failed, and led to tension with Washington.) In the case of Russia, and to a lesser extent with China,

Israeli policy makers have considered a limited "carrot and stick" policy, offering technological cooperation in exchange for an end in their assistance to Iran, while also suggesting economic disincentives. One option under consideration is the cancellation of contracts to import Russian natural gas.

Realistically, there is little chance that Israel can change Russian policy. The possibilities for influencing

Chinese policy are even more remote.

In addition, Israel has an interest in maintaining good working relations with Moscow, and in attempting to influence Russian policy through dialogue and cooperation. At some point, Russian leaders may realize that their long-term interests are not served by a powerful and revolutionary Islamic regime near its borders. (The same is also true for China).

Furthermore, with the recent elections and change in government in Iran, there are some signs of relaxation in the revolutionary and Islamic fervor. Iranians signaled a desire for economic growth and an end to the isolation and sanctions, and this may be the beginning of a gradual change in direction.

At some point, Iranian leaders may conclude that the cost of revolution and support for terror may be too high. This process could take many years, but Israel has no interest in reinforcing the ideological conflict with Iran.

At the same time, the organizations that support Hizbullah

attacks in Lebanon and suicide bombings in Jerusalem are also getting closer to acquiring long-range missiles and nuclear weapons. As a result, Israeli deterrence vis-a-vis Iran must be emphasized as a last-resort option. The publicity given to this week's first flight of the F-15I, the Israeli Air Force's long-range first-line fighter-bomber, was an important step in this direction.

The bottom line is that Israel has little choice but to continue to walk the Iranian tightrope. This means close coordination with the US government, continued attempts to convince the Russians and Chinese to limit their sales to outdated equipment of little use, and the search for opportunities to influence Iranian policy and public opinion. At the same time, the maintenance of a strong deterrent is vital, in the event that other options fail.

The writer directs the Arms Control Project at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University.



ening?

folly

Despite signs of possible change within Iran, the mullahs and Revolutionary Guards in Teheran are still the primary sources of instability and violence in the region. In addition to support for Hamas, Hizbullah, and terrorists sent to New York, the Iranians are also investing huge sums in the effort to obtain weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles to deliver them to distant targets.

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Ten tourists killed in Cairo terror

By CHRISTINE HAUSER

CAIRO (Reuters) - Suspected Muslim militants attacked a tourist bus in central Cairo yesterday, killing 10 people - six of them Germans - in their first major attack in the Egyptian capital in 18 months.

Egyptian security sources said all of those who died were inside the bus, parked outside the Egyptian Museum at Tahrir Square, one of Cairo's busiest areas.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which wounded at least nine, but security sources said police had arrested three suspected gunmen and are looking for two more.

A ministry statement identified the gunman as Saber Farahat Abu Ela, who was put in a mental hospital after he fired on tourists at the Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel in Cairo four years ago.

Ela's brother Mahmoud was also arrested after the attack, the statement said. Security sources said the third gunman was shot in the head and was in critical condition.

The ministry said 33 German tourists were on the bus. Security sources said one of the gunmen clambered aboard and started spraying the interior with gunfire.

When he saw several tourists escaping through the rear entrance, the gunman threw a petrol bomb inside. He then ran out and put a second bomb under the bus. Other gunmen fired at three or more nearby buses parked near the museum.

Security sources suspect the gunmen are Muslim militants who have been seeking to topple the government since 1992.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel expressed horror at the attack, saying it was the third disaster to hit Germans abroad this week.

The German Foreign Ministry said nine people were killed in the attack, including six Germans and three others of unknown nationality. Egyptian police could not also confirm the nationalities of the three others.

Yesterday's attack was the first major militant operation in the capital since April 1996 when suspected militants shot dead 18 Greek tourists and wounded 14 outside a hotel.

It was one of the bloodiest attacks against the Egyptian tourism industry since militants began sporadically targeting tourists in 1992 as a way to damage the country's economy in their fight against the government.

Before yesterday, Muslim militants had killed 26 foreigners and wounded 73. "It was like 'Gunfight at the OK Corral,'" said Australian tourist Fabian Muir. "Totally out of control. It went on for like 20 minutes. It seemed to go on forever."

A broken bottle and soaked rags lay next to the bus, transformed at midday into a blackened skeleton of seat frames and broken windows. Bloody water dripped from inside.

A woman's charred body lay spilled down the steps of the bus, her long hair tied up in ribbon, hands outstretched, water bottle nearby. Others trapped in the bus were burned to the bone, one cringing under a seat, another on the floor.

At least three other buses were riddled with bullet holes, their windows spider webs of shattered glass. One bullet neatly punctured the glass above the driver's seat, where he had placed the Koran in the window.



Egyptian police guard the site of an attack on a tourist bus in front of the archaeology museum in Cairo's Tahrir Square, where gunmen opened fire yesterday killing 10 and injuring more than a dozen. (AP)

Tourists, who were locked inside the building, tricked out and were being taken by police to a nearby hotel. Police also tightened security around Cairo airport to protect tourists.

The US condemned the "cowardly" attack, saying it supports President Hosni Mubarak's efforts to oppose terrorism.

"I condemn this cowardly act of terrorism in the strongest possible terms," Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said in remarks to a US business conference. "We must never give in to terrorism."

The attack came as the Egyptian tourism industry, an important source of hard currency, hailed its recovery after militant attacks in 1993 and 1994 saw hotel occupancy rates drop and many tourism sector employees lose their jobs.

Egypt's two main militant groups are al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group) and the Jihad - both fighting to overthrow the Egyptian government and set up a strict Islamic state.

Al-Gama'a has attacked tourists, Christians, and police, while the Jihad has concentrated on security and political figures.

was not organized for the United States," Selebi said.

The text produced in Oslo, which will be signed in Ottawa in early December, outlines the use, production, sale and stocks of anti-personnel land mines - a cause championed by Britain's late Princess Diana.

President Bill Clinton announced Wednesday that Washington would be unable to sign the treaty because it compromised US security interests.

The United States had come to Oslo with a handful of proposed opt outs to the treaty. But despite intensive efforts to cajole support for its demands, including the intervention of the president himself, the US delegation went home empty handed.

Several other major countries, including Russia, China, India, Pakistan and Israel, have had no formal part in the so-called Ottawa process that was spearheaded by Canada a year ago.

Russia, which attended the conference as an observer, said the convention could not be considered universal because it was worked out without the states that hold nearly two-thirds of the world's population.

"Instead of consolidating the world community the convention causes a division between those who support it and those who are not yet ready for the total ban on mines and suggest other ways for solution," the head of the Russian delegation said.

Selebi, at a news conference, said the importance of the convention could not be measured in size of population.

"Who are these two-thirds? We are talking China, Russia and the United States. Two-thirds of that population owns nuclear weapons, can we then say we must all own nuclear weapons?"

"I am sure no child tramples on a mine in New York, but I am sure that hundreds of children, hundreds of women in Mozambique, Angola and in the Congo, trample on these mines. Those are the lives we need to protect, not the lives that are already protected," Selebi said.

Japan, whose delegates had supported much of the US stance, criticized the flexibility of the text. It also expressed reservations about deferred entry to the treaty and stockpiles.

"My delegation is not in a position to state Japan's final position toward the Ottawa meeting. The Japanese government will carefully study the convention now adopted and a decision will be taken in due course," a Japanese statement said.

Venezuela and Kuwait also expressed doubts over whether they would join the Ottawa signing, citing concerns over state security.

Poland, Australia and Egypt said their governments would review the document.

Despite criticism, around 24 countries - including France, Belgium, Italy, Mexico and the Philippines - signaled they would be at the December ceremony. Most acknowledged the treaty was only the beginning of an enormous process.

A painful glare from the truth commission

What did you do during apartheid, Abba? The ripples from South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission have spread far beyond the highly publicized main players who have stood humbly contrite or arrogantly unrepentant before it.

"The fact is most people turned a blind eye - and worse than that, a hell of a lot of people made a hell of a lot of money. This was not a crime of mere omission."

And, when truth has been outed, and Nelson Mandela has gone, where is South Africa headed?

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Black card Davis is at work on two books, one a casebook on the South African bill of rights and one on nationalism and democracy. He is keenly aware of the problems - such as rising crime rates - and the flaws in the new republic, but also of its strengths. The two intertwine. Take Mandela's successor designate, Deputy President

Thabo Mbeki, who to all practical purposes runs the government. Davis said that where Mandela is color-blind, Mbeki has played the black African card skillfully and will continue to do so.

"As far as I know, there are no whites on his personal staff."

"But all that that means is that whites will have to find new entrepreneurial roles rather than as advisers to government. If you ask me will my son or daughter advise the government if they wanted to, I would say probably no. Nor might they be appointed chief justice. But they might decide the way to go is the Bill Gates way and that will be OK. That's better for the country."

"There is one thing in the ANC's favor - its long tradition of non-racism and the number of distinguished whites who joined it. And the ordinary people will be as critical of black entrepreneurs who do nothing for them as they were of white ones."

They have spread to the Jewish community no less than to whites, says Prof. Dennis Davis, who has played an important role in South Africa's political transformation on a number of constitutional and legal committees. Davis is an academic, author, tax and legal consultant - and won a "best television presenter" award in 1994 for the series *Funny Imperfect*. Merely reading a summary of his career is a tiring task, before one wonders where he has found the time for it all.

"There's a fascinating debate taking part at the moment about the role of the Jews under apartheid," said Davis. "That has been on the back of the broader debate on the role of all sorts of communities. We really have come up for scrutiny in this national debate - a lot of soul searching - for example on the role of the judiciary."

Davis first visited Israel in 1966 and has been back almost once a year since.

"Like most South African Jews, I'm one of those people who has vacillated through my life about whether I should live here or there. I just got involved politically in South Africa, and I guess life took its own course and I never came here," Davis said.

Blind eyes As director of Investec Bank (and tax adviser to the South African government) Davis told the business press this week the bank is looking into making a package of substantial investments on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange - including setting up a country fund for Israel which would buy shares of listed Israeli companies.

As he warmed to his themes in an armchair in Tel Aviv's South African embassy yesterday, the impish face of 46-year-old Davis carried hints of a resemblance to the singer Elton John.

"The Truth Commission has started a very painful re-examination," he continued. "It is a mistake to think all Jews in South Africa were liberal opponents of apartheid. Their role was a very ambivalent one and a very checkered one."

"There were some very exceptional people whose names should go down for ever on rolls of honor, politicians, terribly important trade unionists, and of course all the famous external activists. They are the one hand. One the other there was an establishment that was frightened and acquiescent."

Sell story Davis credits Mbeki with economic genius. The liberalization and success of the economy could not have been done without him, in the view of most South Africans.

"What we must do, however, is sell our success rather better. I am not negative. We have reached a remarkable level of political stability. We look at a country like Israel and think its odd, isn't it. Here's a country that grows at seven percent - and it's still politically unstable. The Arab-Israeli problem is now ever more unresolved than before. We on the other hand are politically stable. We are not going to implode. We are not going to have a war. We might have crime, but not a war."

So the things we have to convince foreign investors is that the country is there to stay, and the country is going to be a democracy. The other thing is - this government is serious about its economic reforms.

"There's a bit of racism in it when people say African societies are banana cases, and blacks running a South African economy can't be anything else."

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

The University of Haifa mourns the passing of its longtime friend and Board Member

RUDOLPH RAPHAELY

Chairman, Haifa University Cultural Exchange Society

a philanthropist and communal leader, donor and supporter of the University

and extends its deepest condolences to the family

The shloshim and unveiling of the tombstone of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother

JOSEPH (Joe) HOFFMAN ז"ל

will take place next Friday, September 26, 1997 (24 Elul 5757) at 10 a.m. at the Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Section 9.

We will meet at the main gate.

The Family

On the first yahrzeit of our beloved

Prof. ZALLMAN RUBINSTEIN ז"ל

a memorial service will be held on Friday, September 26, 1997 at 11 a.m. at the Yarkon Cemetery.

The Family

At the end of the shloshim after the passing of our much loved and respected former chairman of our Global Board of Trustees

AHARON MEIR

Bar-Ilan University in Israel and its American friends extend their sincerest condolences to his beloved wife and the entire family.

He was a dedicated leader of our people and exemplified modesty and the virtues of a mensch.

We share with his family many inspiring memories.

To mark two years since our son

NITAI SHEFTS ז"ל

was killed in action, we shall meet at the graveside in Kibbutz Nachshon on Friday, September 19, 1997, at 1:30 p.m.

Avri and Galya Shefts and Family Kibbutz Nachshon

The unveiling for

Rabbi IRWIN ISAACSON ז"ל

will take place on Thursday, September 25 at 4:15 p.m. at the Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Beit Shemesh.

Esther Isaacson Hasida Toitzis
Yisrael Isaacson Henry Isaacson
Joel Isaacson

For details, please call Joel Isaacson at 08-949-1586.

Japan, Russia, join US criticism of mine pact

By TANYA PANG

OSLO (Reuters) - Japan and Russia yesterday joined the United States in criticizing a global land mine ban treaty as the conference called to draft the agreement drew to a close.

Despite the criticism, conference officials hailed the marathon talks held this week by 89 countries, 32 observer countries and 10 observer organizations as historic. They denied the treaty was weakened by the day-earlier pull out of the United States.

"The fact that 100 countries out of 185 come and speak and agree on a convention that they are ready to sign, has never been achieved anywhere else, not even in the Conference of Disarmament," Jacob Selebi, president of the Oslo conference, told reporters.

"It is important to locate this treaty within that context. This conference

26 die in Arctic explosion

OSLO (Reuters) - Twenty-six Russian and Ukrainian coal miners were killed yesterday when a powerful explosion ripped through a mine on the Arctic island of Spitzbergen, a Norwegian news agency said.

Authorities said 33 miners had escaped to safety after the blast, near the Russian settlement of Barentsburg on Spitzbergen.

All 59 workers in the mine were later accounted for, the NTB agency reported.

Russia's Interfax news agency quoted the Emergencies Ministry in Moscow as saying the accident was caused by a methane explosion.

NTB said 14 bodies were recovered and rescuers were attempting to bring the remaining 12 to the surface. Operations were being hampered by heat and a lack of oxygen in the mine.

Just over a year ago, 141 Russian and Ukrainian coal miners and their families were killed when a plane taking them to the same mine crashed into mountains before landing on Spitzbergen.

Russians and Ukrainians work for weeks at a time on the inhospitable island, half of which is covered in ice for most of the year. The mine is operated by the Russian company Trust Arktikugol.

HEALING MEANS TO MAKE WHOLE

Yonina Jacobs, M.A., B.S.S.H., clinical psychologist, healer, and gifted therapist, has taught, lectured, and consulted extensively with groups and individuals in the U.S., Europe and Israel for nineteen years. "Healing means to make whole," says Jacobs. "Our bodies have a marvelous built-in healing system with the ability to search out, diagnose and produce the pharmaceuticals necessary to heal. But sometimes we get so out of balance that the system can't work as it should. We, as healers, try to restore the ability of the body to do the work it was designed to do."

Jacobs says: "Healing is as old as the planet. Our planet is electromagnetic in nature and everything alive on the planet has an electromagnetic field in and around it. We are all healers in that we are constantly transferring and transmitting energy; it is not really possible to teach healing. The School of Healing was established to teach people how to learn healing. Anyone can learn to use loving energy if they have an open heart and open mind."

The course is an intensive one year course from November to September and consists of 373 hours taught in small classes in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in English or in Hebrew. It includes Chi Gong, a type of meditative movement. "We must know how to feel the flow of energies in our own body before we can expect to feel it in others." The students study the energy systems of the body, how they work, how they affect us and our lives and how we affect them. They study techniques and get hands-on experience. They learn about the different frequencies and how to know what to run and when, when to put energy into the body and when to remove it, and so on.

Basic anatomy, physiology and pathology are also taught in the course. "If we work with the body, we must learn how the body works," she adds. The student receives a certificate at the end of the course.

Jacobs has treated all sorts of problems, from migraines, allergies and chronic pain, to arthritis, cancer and AIDS, frequently working alongside of doctors. Her students include people from all walks of life, including doctors and nurses. Some of them are practicing healers today.

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A VERY DIFFERENT TWO DAYS ON THE GOLAN

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. We'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

We'll visit the museum at Kibbutz Tel Katzir, Mitzpe Shalom Observation Point, Kibbutz Afik for a meeting with members, Katzrin, tastings at the Golan Wineries, observe the vultures at Gamla, Tel Rachsanya wind generators, the ancient volcano of Mount Bental, view Syrian Kuneitra, Birkat Ram, Ein Kinaya, Kfar Rajar Alawim and more. A truly magnificent tour. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the Golan's wildlife.

The date: Monday-Tuesday, October 27-28. The guide: Israel Shalem.

The price: NIS 660. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch-box on the second.

Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible, by prior arrangement.

Reservations and further information: SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074. Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

Nasrallah: Hizbullah's ruthless realist

Sheikh Sa'id Hassan Nasrallah is a man who walks constantly in the shadow of Lebanon's valleys of death.

Five years ago he became Hizbullah's operational leader of choice, after his predecessor Abbas Musawi was killed by an IDF helicopter raid. Two years ago he himself may have been spared by a fateful IDF accident at Tze'elim, during a special forces rehearsal for an operation widely leaked later as targeting him.

"The Israelis are famous throughout history for killing prophets and all principled men," said the bearded Nasrallah at the time. "They will try again, but should know the more of us they kill, the mightier we grow."

Last week Nasrallah's 18-year-old son Hadi was among four Hizbullah and six Lebanese soldiers killed in a clash with the IDF.

The "normalization" of Lebanon has passed by Hizbullah, the Party of God. While other former gunmen of the civil war concern themselves with cellphones, stock prices and smuggling Johnnie Walker, the cutting-edge warriors of the resistance still clack Kalashnikovs, flock to martyrs' funerals and punch the air where, presumably, the Zionist menace hovers.

Over the last couple of years, Lebanon's President Rafik Hariri has been trying to clean up at least the bits of Beirut tourists might see on their way

north from the airport, past the gray concrete Ouzai mosque with its faded Khomeini banners.

Hariri has managed to get Hizbullah to remove the garish giant posters of martyrs that stretched along the airport road — heroes oozing blood, throwing bombs, killing Israelis, entering kitschy paradise. The Hizbullah leader's son would merit a mighty one of those.

Nasrallah last year sarcastically suggested Hariri would be better occupied putting up electricity lines than taking down posters. Privately, Hariri and his middle-class Lebanese are less worried by the southern occupiers than by the

other occupiers. They can see an end in sight to the Israelis — but the Syrians, who knows?

Theoretically, today's Lebanon-weary Israel could strike some fruitful bargaining with leaders like Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah or even Nasrallah himself (if it's not too busy planning to assassinate him).

But practically, it's a nonstarter, since Hizbullah is President Hafez Assad's on-off terrorist bargaining chip. Hizbullah leaders are probably as war-weary as the Israelis — but they have no options while the occupation lasts. The occupation of the Golan, that is.

Hizbullah has served Damascus well. Look at the current disgust of a growing number of Israelis with south Lebanon's casualties. The casualties are mostly military on both sides, given the grisly "understandings" reached after the Grapes of Wrath operation last year on who can be

Hizbullah is not implacably opposed to regional peace. Both Nasrallah and spiritual leader Fadlallah are often on record as saying that their tactical objective is the removal of Israelis from Lebanon.

There is no security on the border, no peace for Galilee after all this time, and no sleeping easy for soldiers' mothers.

No wonder the Fox of Damascus can afford to be as smug and unyielding as ever. The Lebanese lost Lebanon. Israelis are losing soldiers. Nasrallah lost his son. But Assad is losing nothing.

What is Hizbullah, and what does it really want? Thomas O'Dwyer looks at Hassan Nasrallah, its relentless leader, and asks: Is a settlement with the sheikh really impossible?



As in most things Middle Eastern, the truth is a good deal more complex. So is Sheikh

Nasrallah. Hizbullah is not a unified force: it is riven with internal division. Its spiritual home is not in Iran, but in Shi'ite Iraq's holy city of Najaf.

The 37-year-old Nasrallah and Hizbullah spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah are alumni of Baalbek Theological School in the Bekaa Valley. The college follows the teachings of Lebanese-born Ayatollah Mohammed Bakr as-Sadr, who founded the Dawa movement in Najaf during the early '60s. Saddam

Hussein had Sadr assassinated in 1980.

Iran's mullahs may want Hizbullah to lead the way to an Islamic Republic of Lebanon and a march on Jerusalem. Nasrallah may not have any intention of doing either.

Hizbullah, Islamic Jihad and Hamas are not interchangeable names for the same enemy, for a very good reason. One organization is Shi'ite, the other two Sunni. Hizbullah is not implacably opposed to regional peace — both

Nasrallah and its spiritual leader Fadlallah are on record many times as saying their tactical objective is the removal of Israelis from Lebanon. After that, they are said to have no interest in taking the war into Galilee.

Nasrallah, a member of Hizbullah's 11-member supreme council, was elected unanimously after the slaying of Musawi. He was a disciple of Musawi. Both came from the Bekaa Valley. Nasrallah was the choice of Iran, approved by Syria.

"He has lived up to our initial assessment," said an intelligence source who asked not to be named. "He is tough, but more intellectual in a broader sense than Musawi. But he has steered close to Musawi's line and kept good relations with Amal, the Syrians, and [former Iranian president Hashemi] Rafsanjani."

Amal was the former dominant Shi'ite grouping, long since overshadowed by its more radical offshoot Hizbullah.

The source said Nasrallah has kept an eye on making Hizbullah a legitimate political force as well as a military one. He has an enemy in the organization, former Hizbullah secretary-general Subhi Tufeyli, a man who considers Nasrallah to be a weakening. Others say that Nasrallah is both a radical and a realist.

not in Teheran. Fadlallah has publicly addressed the Middle East peace issue: "No matter how complicated the issues appear to be now, a compromise will be achieved in due time. It is not likely in the near time, but it will come...." This was not quite Teheran's line.

Even more fascinating was Fadlallah's ruminating over the Oslo accords as they unfolded. He told reporters that the "total annihilation" of the state of Israel was "unlikely" because of peace agreements already reached. Such a remark seems to imply tacit recognition of the Jewish state.

"The peace option has already been written in the region's historic memory. The war option is therefore no longer the exclusive one," Fadlallah said.

Nasrallah too spoke of a "window," after the Grapes of Wrath understandings which sharply reduced civilian casualties in southern Lebanon. He said then Hizbullah had launched fewer attacks against the IDF.

But he added that "this is no weakening of Hizbullah's resolve to drive the Israelis from Lebanon."

In November 1993, Nasrallah even told the London Independent that Hizbullah would "close the file" on Israel when the last IDF soldier

NASRALLAH'S first test came quickly in February 1992, when at Syria's behest he committed Hizbullah to halting Katyusha rocket attacks across the northern border. Even amid the emotive fervor surrounding a 20,000-strong memorial service for Musawi, Nasrallah managed to mix required rhetoric against the hated Zionists with agreement not to attack Galilee settlements.

Nasrallah's roots were in the more moderate Amal, in which he was a young leader responsible for the Bekaa Valley in the early 1980s. Then he took a few dozen followers and defected to Hizbullah with the aim of founding the "Islamic Resistance," a group with the objective of driving the IDF out of Lebanon. He also led Hizbullah into the first postwar parliamentary elections in October 1992 and won eight mandates.

Hizbullah is not the stonemouthing organization of gun-toting puppets it is often taken for — or indeed might once have been. True, it pays lip service to the paymasters in Teheran. As the last armed militia in Lebanon, it also operates under strict and detailed Syrian sufferance.

But Hizbullah's leaders do have minds and agendas of their own. Hizbullah's long-term interests are in Beirut, not Jerusalem, and are said to be formulated in Beirut.

Hizbullah is also not as close an ally of the Palestinians as some in Israel tend to believe. The coolness between the Shi'ites and the Palestinians is often overlooked amid solidarity rhetoric.

Nasrallah is a former leader of Amal, and few organizations have wreaked such destruction on the Palestinians as Amal did in the Camps War of Beirut of the mid-1980s.

While bitterly critical of the type of accord Yasser Arafat was making when he concluded the Oslo Accords with Israel in 1993, Nasrallah made it clear that Arafat could lie on his own bed. "Hizbullah will concentrate on pursuing a conventional political role in Lebanon after Israel's departure," he said.

"The occupation of Jerusalem is an abnormal situation that cannot continue," Nasrallah said, "and there will be resistance to the Israeli occupation; but we believe this is the responsibility of the Palestinian people."

"When Israel occupied Lebanon, did we ask for anyone to come and fight on our behalf?" Nasrallah asked.

"Nobody can fight for Palestinian land other than the Palestinian people, who resist inside Palestine. This nobody other than the Palestinians themselves can do."

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A nasty storm, fast brewing up



The next war doesn't have a name yet. But if it comes it will be nasty, close to home, pointless, and probably soon.

This is the feeling among several Israeli military experts, interviewed this week after the startling news conference called by a senior IDF officer to announce that the army is making preparations to meet guerrilla warfare in the territories.

The briefing was denounced by ministers as alarmist and viewed in some circles as politically motivated. But some experts say the warning reflects a growing professional appraisal within the military of an approaching storm that the civilian authorities prefer not to see.

"I can see an intifada, or popular uprising, including stone throwing and roadblocks, combined with guerrilla warfare - like in Lebanon - with roadside mines and gunfire," a widely-respected former senior intelligence officer says.

"That isn't even a worst-case scenario. It's all speculation, of course. But if there is no movement politically, a scenario like this is literally unavoidable. Do you think," he asks, "that just because the government refuses to give them anything the Palestinians will give up 100 years of Palestinian 'Zionism'? Ridiculous."

The IDF might enter Palestinian cities if they prove to be bases of an uprising, the retired officer says. "But it could be that the cities would remain perfectly quiet and everything would happen in areas B and C," which are under Israeli security control. "The Palestinian Authority could then say, 'It's your area of responsibility, not ours.'"

Whatever the scenario, the intelligence officer says, the IDF is only a technical factor, not a prime player. "The IDF is not important in this. The only element that matters is the government."

Maj.-Gen. (res.) Oren Shohor, the recently retired government coordinator for the territories, believes that guerrilla warfare is the lesser of the dangers confronting Israel.

"Guerrilla warfare could be an intermediary stage. It might involve armed bands attacking the army, or settlers with gunfire and Molotov cocktails [firebombs]. But the bigger danger is a violent popular uprising," Shohor says. Such an uprising may escalate into the use of weapons by the Palestinian Police - like what happened after the opening of the archeological tunnel in the Old City last year.

"The Palestinians have tens of thousands of weapons. A general uprising is more dangerous than guerrilla warfare, and putting it down would be a very difficult matter - not just because of the question of Israel's image, but because of the technical problem of dealing with it."

Shohor, who has joined the Labor Party, said it would be difficult for the army to operate in an environment where civilian demonstrators, including women and children,

Expert opinion isn't prophecy - but there's a strong sense among military experts that Israel is in for a rough time. Abraham Rabinovich presents their views



IDF tanks near Ramallah during last year's September riots. (Ariel Jerusalemi)

were mixed in with armed elements.

"I don't think we will attempt to enter the Palestinian cities unless there are Israelis trapped in them," Shohor says. "It would be a bloody business as we saw [during the post-tunnel violence] at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus."

Shohor believes that the surrounding Arab countries, particularly Syria, are unlikely to remain indifferent to a Palestinian uprising.

"I don't say they will attack, but they would heat up Lebanon by encouraging Hizbullah; and they could change their army deployment to increase tension. They've done it before," Shohor says.

Syrian divisions close to the front are now capable of launching an attack on the Golan directly from their camps without any telltale forward deployment, Shohor says. "But I don't think they will attempt to fire missiles. They know what Israel's reaction would be."

Egypt and Jordan would also be likely to make some diplomatic move, he adds, perhaps recalling their ambassadors.

"The price of such a war could be heavy for us," Shohor says. "Arafat

didn't want to have the IDF reply in kind. "Difficult as it might be for them now, it will be worse if they resort to force. Now they have what they have, and they enjoy world sympathy. But logic doesn't always prevail in the Middle East."

Saguy would not advise the IDF to try to reconquer Palestinian cities, except in dire situations such as a siege of the Hebron settlers.

As for the possibility of war with Syria and reports of Iran's advances in acquiring nonconventional weapons, there is nothing new here to warrant a strategic reassessment, Saguy says. "I feel that some of these statements serve political goals."

Prof. Martin van Creveld of the Hebrew University, Israel's best-known military historian, also does not think guerrilla warfare is the likeliest option. "I would not advise the Palestinians to try it," he said. "They would be blown away." The likelier option, he says, is terrorism. "It's what Mao Tse-tung called the first stage of guerrilla warfare. I don't think the Palestinians would go beyond that."

Although there might be sniping, the Palestinians are unlikely to engage in an open armed struggle unless the IDF tries to break into their cities.

However, van Creveld says, there can be no certainty. "These things can get out of hand."

The Palestinians should not assume that their cities are impenetrable, he says, certainly not to covert actions. "We can expect terrorism to go on as long as our government, whether Likud or Labor, doesn't do what has to be done: build a Berlin Wall between us and the Palestinians that even a bug can't penetrate," van Creveld adds.

Putting up a wall, the military historian grants, is far from the vision of a new Middle East shared by many until not long ago. "But it could be a precondition for a new Middle East. First you have to impose peace."

Van Creveld believes it unlikely that the Syrians will go to war. "The very worst thing would be a small-scale attempt on the Golan," he says. "To fight Israel without having nuclear weapons would be madness, and they can't delude themselves anymore that Israel doesn't have nuclear weapons."

"To fight it with nuclear weapons would be even greater madness - and they know it. Their missiles are mainly for deterrence."

From the Syrians' standpoint, van Creveld says, Israel has twice attacked them with hardly any provocation, just on the whim of a defense minister. In 1967 it was Moshe Dayan, in 1982, Ariel Sharon.

Thus Syria feels "exposed, and in need of a deterrent."

Expert opinion is not to be confused with prophecy but there is a strong sense among those who are, or used to be, paid to think about such things that we may be rounding a bend into a rough stretch of road.

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مكتبة الراسل

Fire, charisma – and a virulent dose of chauvinism

Jewish residents of Zemun are edgy, anticipating what the town's ultranationalist mayor will do after his bid for the Serbian presidency suffers its expected defeat on Sunday
Michael J. Jordan reports

A long shot to win Sunday's vote for Serbian president, rabid ultranationalist Vojislav Seselj can be counted on after the election to resume the reign of terror he has unleashed in Zemun since becoming mayor in November.

This could mean more bad news for the 170 Jews who live in the ethnically diverse town, a suburb adjacent to the capital, Belgrade. While Seselj has mostly targeted local ethnic Croats for harassment, he has created a climate increasingly hostile to anyone non-Serb.

Early this summer, the Jewish community's 147-year-old synagogue – sold to the Communists in 1961, long after some four-fifths of Zemun's Jews perished in the Holocaust – was converted into a trendy nightclub. This despite the synagogue's designation as a state-protected historical monument and a long-standing agreement to use it only for cultural purposes.

In July, local Jews were dealt a second blow. Nine headstones in the Jewish cemetery were desecrated, allegedly by youths.

Seselj himself may not be antisemitic, say observers, but his virulent brand of chauvinism may have inspired the acts. They say it's unlikely the Serbian Radical Party leader, who reportedly coordinated campaigns of "ethnic cleansing" during the war in Croatia and Bosnia, has added Jews to his list.

"These were not acts of anti-Semitism," said Aca Singer, president of the Yugoslav Federation of Jewish Communities, representing the country's 3,000 Jews. "They were acts of stupidity."

Seselj refused comment. A party spokesman says he is not granting interviews to Western journalists.

THE CHARISMATIC, articulate populist has tapped into right-wing disenchantment with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and his Socialist Party. Seselj's one-time ally failed to join Serbia with Serb-inhabited lands in Bosnia and Croatia. He has since been unable to revive the economy after three years of devastating UN sanctions.

Seselj's fiery rhetoric has also won over the 600,000-plus ethnic Serb refugees from Bosnia and Croatia, who now live in limbo in the Yugoslav federation of Serbia and Montenegro and denounce Milosevic as a traitor.

So Seselj alone carries the banner for "Greater Serbia." He and Milosevic pursued it together in the early stages of the war, with the Socialists and Radicals comprising the ruling coalition. Milosevic reportedly gave Seselj the go-ahead to have his notori-

ous paramilitary force funnel arms and cash to Croatian and Bosnian Serbs. Later, Serbian Radicals were said to have also pitched in on the battlefield.

But the alliance cracked in 1993 when Milosevic ostensibly turned peacemaker, attempting to ease the year-old UN sanctions strangling Yugoslavia. Seselj accused him of betraying Serb interests and became his fiercest critic.

Milosevic later had a slew of Radicals arrested for war crimes; in 1995 he jailed Seselj for four months for demonstrating against his Bosnia policies. Seselj retaliated last year by threatening to incriminate Milosevic – and himself in the process – if the premier permitted indicted Bosnian war criminals to be extradited to the UN War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

Today, Seselj's popularity surges as Milosevic's wanes. Yet analysts predict Seselj will capture only 10 to 12 percent of this weekend's vote, finishing second or even third behind Zoran Ljilic, Milosevic's hand-picked successor.

So Seselj will probably have to settle for wreaking more havoc in Zemun.

THIS SUMMER, Seselj allowed at least four Croat families to be expelled from their homes to make room for Serb refugees. Then a four-year-old boy was denied entry to a kindergarten because he was a Croat.

Around town, Seselj, a huge gangly blond, is often seen toting a pistol, surrounded by a coterie of thick-necked bodyguards. He relishes his tough-guy image. Following a heated televised debate with a prominent Belgrade lawyer, the advocate was badly beaten up by one of Seselj's bodyguards.

Most Zemun residents seem afraid to speak out, as Seselj brooks no political opposition. Prior to a planned protest by the grassroots Alliance of Independent Citizens of Zemun, the office of one organizer was firebombed.

"God help us if he becomes president," said Alliance vice-president Ljubomir Rankov, whose print shop was partially damaged in the late-July blast. "He said Zemun is an experiment for how he would run the country. That means he would eliminate anyone who doesn't think like him."

To encourage "conversion," the new mayor is nurturing a personality cult. He erected a new kiosk in Zemun's sleepy downtown immediately after taking office, lining its windows with the 50-odd books he has supposedly authored. Titles like *We Shall Rule for 100 Years* are selling briskly.



according to kiosk operator Dejan Drageljevic, as are the two folk-music tapes dedicated to him, with odes like "Good Morning, Mr. President" and "Vojislav, Our Savior." There are also two videotapes on sale, one of which highlights the visit to Seselj made by French nationalist Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Seselj has also hosted Russian Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, in a right-wing display of Slavic solidarity. Drageljevic is a Seselj fan and says he'll vote for him.

"Seselj also has his good side," he said. "The streets are cleaner, the garbage is collected more often, and the city administration runs more smoothly."

THAT'S LITTLE consolation to Vladimir Ser, president of Zemun's Jewish community. Traced to the late 18th century, Zemun's is the fourth oldest Jewish community in the former Yugoslavia, after Dubrovnik, Split and Sarajevo. Its lasting legacy was the brick Ashkenazi synagogue, crowned by a pair of stone tablets engraved with the Ten Commandments. The Jewish community, Ser said, had no choice but to sell because of the Communist crusade against religion.

Ser had hoped to cobble together enough funds to reacquire the building – in which his parents were married – and revive Jewish spiritual life. But an entrepreneur beat him to it. The new owner obtained city permission to tear out the decrepit pews and balcony, which had seated 1,000 in its day.

Ser, 62, is still seething about the city's move, though he was visibly nervous about criticizing Seselj directly. "For 50 years under

Communist rule I couldn't learn even the most elementary things about Judaism," said Ser, a successful businessman. "Now, after all we Jews have been through, this is done in the name of democracy and the free market."

It's unclear how long Seselj will remain a fixture on the Serbian political stage. There is growing international pressure for Milosevic to get rid of him. (The New York-based Human Rights Watch recently condemned the expulsions of Zemun's Croats.) With his control of the police, army and electronic media, say observers, it should be easy enough to do.

But Milosevic apparently still finds Seselj useful.

Take the current political crisis in the Bosnian Serb Republic, the Serb-run bit of Bosnia. Seselj, who earlier this month described NATO peacekeepers as an "occupying force," has announced that as president, he would ignore the Dayton peace accords. He reportedly sent some of his henchmen down to the republic to clash with NATO troops in support of hardline forces, exhorting his Bosnian Serb brethren to engage in "Palestinian-style resistance."

Also earlier this month, when asked about his party's ideology, Seselj said, "We're not fascist. We're just chauvinists who hate Croats."

Milosevic, meanwhile, is under international pressure to back the moderates.

As long as Seselj serves a purpose, he'll stick around, say analysts. Besides, they note cynically, Milosevic surely realizes that next to Seselj he's a virtual moderate, more palatable both abroad and at home.



(Top) Rabid ultranationalist Mayor of Zemun, Vojislav Seselj, is a long shot to win Serbia's presidential race on Sunday; (above) early this summer Zemun's 147-year-old synagogue – an historical landmark – was converted into a trendy nightclub. While Seselj may not be directly responsible, some believe his chauvinism has inspired this, as well as other antisemitic acts. (Photos: Robb Hill)

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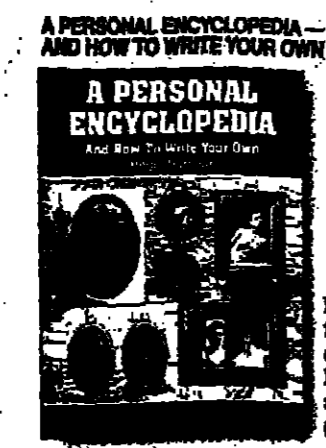
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MIDDLE ISRAEL

A tragedy named Moskowitz



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

Caught on a Manhattan sidewalk by a merciless thunderstorm, Zvi Auslander rushed into the nearest building, incidentally a residential high-rise. Having nothing better to do while waiting out the storm, he scanned the numerous mail boxes; the common denominator among the scores of Cohen, Berkowitz, Moskowitz, Shapiro, Goldberg, and Lefkowitz nameplates was as obvious as the scent of borscht rising from a Polish Seder table.

Auslander, oblivious to the wrathful downpour which pounded, backed and hailed on the street scene just outside the glass wall behind him, pierced with his idealist's gaze the junk mail-laden boxes as if to elicit the attention of his long-lost brethren who lurked behind them.

Back at home at the end of that winter day in 1970, Auslander — a Holocaust survivor on a brief sojourn to the New World whence his hard-won, Jew-thirsty State of Israel expected him to send it more Jews — told his family in a typical mixture of amusement, angst and disillusionment: "This morning I

located the Jewish people." Just as that discovery reflected the Jewish people's chronically dismembered limbs, so does the phenomenon called Irving Moskowitz reflect a kind of national schizophrenia that plagues no one other than Jews. The symptoms of those plagued by this disease are a demand on their part that others be at least as patriotic as Joan of Arc while personally being the equivalent of draft dodgers.

This week, a bewildered Middle Israel looked on while the Miami-based bingo-parlor entrepreneur, from his encampment at the King David, set out on a self-appointed mission to fix what he sees as wrong in the life of a country where he isn't even a citizen.

Few things could have been as surreal as the contradiction between his distorted ultra-Zionist agenda and the aloofness of his velvet-draped lodging, not to mention the English in which he addresses his Israeli adversaries, whose lives are at least arguably risked by his actions.

Having spent the best years of our youth marching, running and crawling across this promised land's prickly hills while shackled to the rifle, helmet, and combat vest which Moskowitz never touched, we Middle Israelis seethe with fury when a Jew who never joined us as a soldier or a taxpayer not only pontificates on how to manage our most sensitive affairs, but also actively meddles in them.

Not only does Moskowitz epitomize the very Jew whom Zionism

failed to bring here, but now the Miami mogul insists on rocking the soil in which Auslander is now buried.

Moskowitz will probably never understand this harsh statement. But the fact is he exemplifies the Exile Jew's antithesis to the New Jew that Zionism sought to create here. Not so much because when people like my parents came here to bleed, sweat and weep while building a new state Moskowitz preferred to leave them to their devices while he sought greed elsewhere; but because he — like a medieval moneylender — thinks he can manipulate anything with his wealth, and because he evidently has no respect for the Jewish state's political process.

When counting the blessings of Jewish statehood, people usually think first of the territory and the military that constitute the haven which Jews once so tragically lacked. But equally significant are the institutions which enable this fragile society to grope its way through the geopolitical fog which has been blurring Israel's horizon since its inception.

In other words, our founding fathers aimed not only to geographically relocate and physically secure the Jews, but also to politically educate them to become members of a mature, pluralistic society where debate is open to all taxpayers, while policy is the exclusive province of their elected representatives.

To achieve this meant eradicating the kind of latent disrespect for

assorted Czars, emperors, dukes and other powers-that-be which, understandably, was common among Jews after centuries of persecution. To a large extent, this has been accomplished here. But Moskowitz — being the throwback to Exile which he embodies — thinks he can force a majority of Israeli politicians, including the prime minister, president and minister of defense, to sanction a move they openly oppose.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that, as if to follow in the footsteps of Masada's zealots — whose one-dimensional understanding of the world they lived in maneuvered them into a mass grave — Moskowitz is obsessively attracted to the Mount of Olives slopes, the site of the world's most populated Jewish cemetery.

And as if to correspond to the most potent antisemitic stereotype, the name of his game is not persuading, or even negotiating, but purchasing.

Moskowitz didn't vote for our premier, but he donated to his campaign. He didn't move to a West Bank settlement — as he should have, according to the intensity of his convictions — but he bought Arab-owned houses. And now he refuses to acknowledge that Ras al-Amud is not a real-estate challenge but a political powder keg with which he has no moral right to tamper.

Apparently it does not occur to him that, with all due respect to his few million dollars, Israel's hard-working taxpayers annually gener-

ate nearly \$100 billion. The reason none of that money was used until today for buying three houses in Ras al-Amud is not that the funds weren't available, but that the local citizenry, through its elected leaders, did not share the political mindset that must accompany such a tunnel-visioned move.

Beyond that, if buying is the name of the game, what would Moskowitz do if Saudi, Libyan or Kuwaiti millionaires followed his lead and bought, through intermediaries, houses in Ramat Aviv, Abuza, or Mea She'arim?

Mr. Moskowitz, do you want to put your capital to work for Israel? No problem. You can buy into our increasingly privatized state assets; purchase a stake in a high-tech start-up; build a conservatory in an off-the-beaten-path development town; install heaters in the homes of lonely pensioners; finance training programs for the unemployed; hire tutors for Ethiopian children; help Russian immigrants pay their rents and young couples meet their mortgages. There's no shortage here of non-controversial uses for your money.

Do you want to dabble in our politics? Then you must live here with us, be part and parcel of our collective moments of joy and despair, pay our exorbitant taxes, and run for our thankless political offices.

If elected, you'll be fully licensed to deal with the Palestinians as much as you please. In fact, maybe you'd find a way to buy them, too.

Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO RISKIN

"A wandering Aramean was my father, and we went down to Egypt and sojourned there, few in number; and he became a nation, great, mighty and populous." (Deut. 26:5)

In the United States, the Constitution still reserves the highest office in the land exclusively for native-born sons and daughters. Henry Kissinger, for example, could never have been next in line for the presidency after Richard Nixon.

The State of Israel makes no such distinction between a native and an immigrant. Natan Sharansky, for instance, can very well become prime minister of Israel. Indeed, until Yitzhak Rabin assumed office, no native-born Israeli had served as prime minister.

This approach to heritage harks back to our Jewish tradition. In this week's portion of *Ki Tavo*, the Torah sets forth the commandment of bringing first fruits and the specific declaration which the farmer was required to articulate upon presenting the *bikkurin* (first fruits) to the priest in front of the Holy Temple. "A wandering Aramean was my father, and we went down to Egypt and sojourned there, few in number; and he became a nation, great, mighty and populous... and we were afflicted... We cried out to God... and God heard our voice..." (Deut. 26:5-7)

If the above verse sounds familiar, it should. On the night of Pessah, after the youngest child asks the Four Questions, the answer in the Haggada quotes our verse. Why this text concerning first-fruit offerings should serve as one of the key texts of the Haggada rather than various passages in Exodus that deal directly with the enslavement and redemption of the Israelites is an issue I have discussed in the past. But within the context of historical continuity and birthright, it seems to me that we have yet to glean from it a new and significant message.

The major reason for using the passage as the basis for Seder discussion on Pessah eve — as mandated by the Mishna — is that it is couched in the first person. In essence, the authors of the Haggada and the Sages of the Mishna are teaching that in order to have a proper effect, objective age-old history must be transformed into subjective personal memory.

Secondly, the link between the exodus from Egypt and the bringing of the first fruits emphasizes the fact that a nation requires a land of its own to completely express its historical and cultural identity.

And finally, the obligation to bring the first fruits informs all generations that what accompanies Israeli citizenship is not primarily privilege but obligation. Our nation was founded not on a

The fruits of our heritage

Ki Tavo

Bill of Rights but on the Ten Commandments. And although along with obligation often comes privilege, there remains a critical distinction between the two: One can voluntarily renounce a privilege, but one is always responsible to fulfill an obligation.

Torah and Israel are primarily obligations; therefore, neither can be arbitrarily renounced unless Jewish tradition ordains such renunciation as necessary for the continued existence of the Jewish people.

Until now, we have assumed that participation in the historical continuum of Israel is a matter of birth more than anything else, and that the land of Israel is our national birthplace. In Tractate *Mishna Bikkurin* (First Fruits), the question is raised as to whether a convert can bring first fruits, since he must intone the phrase "My father was a wandering Aramean" — and his biological father was not descended from Jacob.

Similarly, Maimonides was asked by Obadiah the Proselyte whether he or any other convert could recite the Armda, which opens with the words, "Our God and the God of our fathers, God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob."

In both instances, Maimonides rules in the affirmative, stressing the metaphysical relationship between the convert and Abraham, which is far deeper than any biological tie.

Indeed, the Sages of the Talmud rule that a proselyte is newborn at the time of his conversion and is then given a new name which includes "the son/daughter of Abraham and Sarah." It is precisely with this "genealogy" that the proselyte is called to the Torah and asks of the Almighty to be healed if in need of a cure.

Perhaps it is for this reason the Land of Israel is not referred to in the Bible as our birthplace. The relative unimportance of the place where one is biologically born may be seen in God's directive "Get thee forth from thy land, thy birthplace, and the land of thy fathers..." (Genesis 12:1). The Hebrew word the Torah uses in that context for birthplace is *moldet* — and Abraham is being ordered to clear out of there!

Far more important than *moldet* is *morasha*, heritage, which is the word used for the land of Israel at the beginning of the Book of Exodus (*Va'era*) and for the Torah of Israel further on in Deuteronomy (33:4).

Morasha — heritage — is the Hebrew causative form of the root meaning "inheritance," literally meaning that the recipient must pass on the inheritance to subsequent generations. A birthplace speaks of the past, whereas a heritage speaks of the future.

Hence, to a great extent, Judaism parts company with Western culture when it stresses "chosen heritage" over "biological birth" and "mandated obligation" over "inherited privilege."

Shabbat Shalom

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHON

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, with the strong backing — perhaps even urging — of both houses of Congress, may at long last have restored the idea of reciprocity to the discussion between Israel and Yasser Arafat and his Palestinian Authority.

Reciprocity — giving and taking mutually — has been notably absent from the Oslo Process since its public beginning on the White House lawn on September 13, 1993. Under the Rabin and Peres administrations, Israel did all the significant giving while the Arafatians mainly took. Then, when the Netanyahu administration started cutting down on the one-sided giving, with the major exception of Hebron, the Arafatians responded mainly by demanding.

Now Arafat, after listening to some tough talk by Albright and perhaps further impelled by the congressional actions, told the joint news conference he held with Albright after their meeting in Ramallah on September 11 that his people and the Jews "are partners in the peace process," and pledged that the PA "will bear all its responsibilities."

In a meeting in Ramallah with Leah Rabin earlier that same day, Arafat also said, "The peace of the brave needs to be protected."

All that remains, then, is for him and his PA colleagues to start performing the brave acts needed to show that they truly consider us partners in a genuine pursuit of peace. Until they do so — for a start, by ruthlessly extirpating physical terrorism from the areas they control and putting an end to the bellicose and

often antisemitic verbal terrorism in the communications and educational media they control — there is no reason for Israel to concede any more than we have already much too generously conceded, or to place any more trust in the Arafatians than we have already generously placed.

If their pledges prove to be only more words cast into the wind, we hope that Albright's and Congress's words will prove to be more than merely for the record.

ALBRIGHT WAS reportedly disappointed over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's failure to commit himself to curtailing construction in Jewish localities in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District, even if the PA effectively combats terrorism.

Such construction, we have been told over the years, "provokes" the Palestinians and is "not conducive to building trust and confidence."

It is high time the Americans and others learned that everything the Jews do as sovereigns anywhere in Eretz Yisrael provokes the Arab political and religious (Muslim, Christian and secular) leadership here and throughout the region, and nothing we do here earns their trust.

Albright reportedly was generally disappointed over achieving less than whatever it was she had hoped to achieve during her visit, and said she wouldn't be returning until we and our interlocutors have taken some "tough decisions."

This is implicitly a return to evenhandedness where affirmative action is called for Israel and its predecessors in the Zionist Movement have taken some very tough decisions.

In 1922 we accepted Winston Churchill's handing the East Bank of the Jordan (the area of Eretz Yisrael then known as Transjordan) to the Hejazi Beduin prince Abdullah.

We accepted the fact (though not the principle) of further partition in 1937 (Royal [Peel] Commission) and again in 1947 (United

Of giving and taking

Nations).

Early this year we handed over Hebron, where our history goes back 4,000 years, to the relatively late arrivals from the Arabian Peninsula led by the Egyptian-born Yasser Arafat.

What "tough decisions" have they taken? What have they given us in return? Their agreement to kiss our cheeks and talk to us in order to receive more?

MEANWHILE, SOME news-mediocrats continue to play with the news.

Some media did not carry a single word about the demonstration of 1,000 Arab high-school pupils in Khan Yunis in the Gaza district on September 11, the day Albright and Arafat met in Ramallah. The demonstrators burned a US flag and an Israeli flag, complaining that US policy favors Israel. They issued a threatening statement: "If the US administration insists on the same policy, we will not stand by quietly with our hands tied, and we will face the challenge of this policy by all means, even if the price will be more blood."

Internet's America On Line (aol) service carried a series of Associated Press stories, dated Ramallah, dealing mainly with the Albright-Arafat meeting.

The first, by Samar Assad, reported it as above in paragraphs 6-8 of a 20-paragraph story.

The second story, by Barry Schweid, a quarter of an hour later, didn't mention the demonstration at all.

The third story, three hours later, again by Assad, repeated the report as above, but in paragraphs 16-18.

The fourth story, again by Schweid, mentioned the demonstration in paragraph 20 of a 22-paragraph story, but omitted the bloody threat.

(Thanks to Arnold Moodnik of Highland, NY.)

FOR A change, in praise of a mediocrat. She is

Barbara Demick, a staff writer for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, which is one of a number of distinguished newspapers that are in the habit of basting Israel.

On September 7 Demick published a most revealing story. Dated Ramallah, it told of the anti-Israel venom being broadcast over the official Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation's (PBC) television station, which is based in that town. For example, "A school-girl, perhaps eight years old and all nervous giggles, stands before a television camera and sings in a squeaky voice: 'I am a daughter of Palestine... / Koran in my right hand, in my left — a knife.'"

A "slightly older girl" recites a poem for Arafat: "I am finished practicing on the sub-machine gun of return... We swear to take vengeful blood from our enemies... We will board a bustling boat... to Jaffa."

Demick added: "The girl approaches Arafat, who plants congratulatory kisses on her cheeks."

Demick noted that the PBC, which also operates the Voice of Palestine radio station, "was nurtured with about \$500,000 in equipment and training from the US Agency for International Development and with more than \$6 million in aid from the European Union, according to network chairman Radwan Abu Ayyash."

Demick acknowledged that she saw and heard the above and other examples of Palestinian anti-Israel bellicosity in a tape, with English translations, prepared by Palestinian Media Review, a private, non-profit organization run in part by Israeli security specialists and codirected by Itamar Marcus of Efrat. Abu Ayyash, who was shown the English transcripts, "said they appeared to be accurate."

(Thanks to David Bedein, director of the Jerusalem-based Israel Resource News Agency.)

E-mail comments to: mushe@post.co.il. Please include home address.

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Celebrations that aren't

Bickering and budget problems are lending a decidedly unfestive air to plans for the country's jubilee festivities, Allison Kaplan Sommer reports

Turning 50 isn't easy for anyone, but the disarray surrounding the plans for the nation's half-century birthday can't simply be chalked up to mid-life crisis. Ongoing budget problems, bitter politics, internal bickering, and dueling egos are to blame for the near-collapse of once-elaborate plans for the country's jubilee year.

With the festivities scheduled to be launched in only three months, the committee responsible for planning and executing the celebration found itself not only leaderless this week, but devoid of any spirit or enthusiasm.

The first clear sign of trouble came two weeks ago, when Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav announced his resignation as political coordinator of the event. At the time, he stated that the reason for his exit was the performance of the chairman of the Jubilee Celebrations Association, retired general Yossi Peled, and the committee's general manager, impresario Haim Slutzky, best known for having produced Michael Jackson's concert here. Katsav complained that the two men, who had been appointed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, were subverting his authority and doing things behind his back.

Katsav attacked Slutzky for failing to budget and plan the scheduled events properly, and even hinted that Slutzky was exploiting the jubilee events for personal gain.

Following Katsav's resignation, Netanyahu wanted Peled and Slutzky to continue in their jobs,

but they said this would be impossible, as Katsav continues to serve as the government official in charge of ceremony and symbols, which would force them to continue working together with him if they were to go on managing the jubilee.

SO LAST Thursday, both Peled and Slutzky announced that they were leaving the association. Peled remained relatively quiet, but Slutzky lashed out at Katsav publicly, charging him with months of inaction and failing to lobby properly for funds for the celebrations. It was Slutzky and Peled who appeared before the Knesset Finance Committee to present funds and deal with various parties and municipalities asking for funding for events.

The celebration was originally conceived as being comprised of more than 20 events across the country throughout the year, with a budget of NIS 250 million. By this month, government budget cuts had whittled this down to four events and a budget of between NIS 50m. and NIS 100m. Under these conditions and with the limited time remaining, charged Slutzky, it would be impossible to put together a professional event.

Slutzky holds Katsav responsible for the celebrations' shrunken

size and status.

"As a professional, I saw it as my role to make sure the jubilee events were as well-planned as possible; it was not my job to deal with politics and political parties.

"He was consulted on every decision we made; every letter crossed his desk. Yet when we were criticized, he did what suited his own political interests. He said that the charges were terrible, and that he would investigate," Slutzky said.

Katsav aides, naturally, have a different version of events. According to them, Slutzky was unprofessional, unresponsive and unaccountable, and he failed to come up with the kind of detailed budget breakdowns required to get the government allocations.

As for the politics, a Katsav spokesman said, "Any director of a government committee is responsible for testifying before the Finance Committee and presenting a detailed budget. To this day, Slutzky hasn't done so."

Since Katsav had not appointed Peled or Slutzky and did not have the power to fire them, all he could do was step down to express his unhappiness with their performance. Following the resignations of Peled and Slutzky, however, Katsav is expected to step back into the picture.

On Monday evening he met with Netanyahu, and following the meeting, his spokesman told

reporters that Katsav "was leaning toward returning to his post, and will announce his decision after there is agreement on the appointments of officials to head the jubilee committee."

Katsav is pushing for the nomination of former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i to replace Peled as chairman. Moda'i has said that he would consider such an offer.

DIASPORA leaders have been watching these developments nervously, concerned about their own planned 50th anniversary celebrations, which they are planning to link to the events here.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that from the beginning, American Jewry had been pressing Netanyahu to get an early start on the planning, and has been frequently frustrated with the pace of the decision-making here.

"We learned from the Jerusalem 3000 celebration, that for a large-scale event to go smoothly, a tremendous amount of advance planning is necessary," Hoenlein said. "It certainly would be regrettable if this opportunity were not used to its fullest, for it creates a context for the broader American public to gain an understanding of what's happening in Israel today."

"What is going on with the committee in Israel certainly impacts our plans - delays that occur there cause us delays as well. And the events being planned here - by some big names in entertainment - is incredibly complicated stuff and requires a huge amount of coordination."

The celebration is set to kick off on the first night of Hanukka in December. World leaders in Europe, North and South America and Asia have already agreed to join in the celebration by lighting candles in their countries, in an event that will be coordinated by satellite.

Also planned are a large-scale Independence Day ceremony at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan, which will also be broadcast internationally; a special prime minister's economic conference; and an exhibition highlighting Israel's accomplishments during its first 50 years.

Whether any of these festivities takes place, however, now depends on the ability of politicians and professionals to put aside their personal interests and egos, and get their act together - quickly.

GRAPEVINE BY GREER FAY CASHMAN

Back in the mall

One survivor of the Ben-Yehuda mall triple bombing, Yoram Kaufman, hasn't been leery of returning to the site of the attack. He was back there the day his wife Ora and daughter Tamar were discharged from Bikur Holim hospital, buying Ora a new pair of pants to replace the pair that had gotten destroyed in the blast. He chose a store located at the mall's main intersection, then made his way to the Atara coffee shop, where the Kaufmans had been sitting when the bombs went off. He chatted for a while with proprietor Uri Greenspan, who had visited him in hospital, "but I didn't stop to have coffee," said Kaufman.

WHILE the state's 50th anniversary celebrations are in disarray, the Dan Hotel chain marked its own jubilee with fanfare. Three generations of Federmans lined up at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv to welcome guests at the opulent gathering. Many of the guests, such as President Ezer Weizman, Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak and basketball star Tal Brody were featured in a magnificent retrospective exhibition. Coordinated by second-generation hotelier Ami Federmann, the show features the faces and signatures of many celebrities who have been guests at hotels in the chain, whose history has been closely

SAA general manager Solly Davidowitz instantly upgraded her to business class. Media people present were willing to bet that Kahalani won't be traveling alone.

THE fundraising dinner was organized by Daniela Oren, chairperson of the Dror Board of Trustees. It featured an entertainment smorgasbord which included the Susuma African drummers and dancers, and the internationally acclaimed and beautiful soprano Chen Reis. Inimitable comedian Tuvia Tsafir had the audience doubled up with laughter over his skits. MK Rafi Edri, who arrived with his latest Significant Other, a youthful and attractive lawyer, barely managed to maintain his composure.

He laughed hardest and longest at jokes about his *landsmen* David Levy and Aryeh Deri. When Tsafir did his Ararat act and hugged Kahalani and Egyptian ambassador Mohamed Bassiouny, the latter took it in good spirit and hugged him back. Bassiouny's wife Nagwa giggled in delight. King Hussein was also part of the Tsafir repertoire. "We're offering a special deal in our hotels for Israelis," said Tsafir in the guise of the monarch. "Steal one towel, get one free."

WOMEN TEND to stay well in the



Micky Federmann (right), Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and Ami Federmann mark the Dan Hotel chain's jubilee. (Sivan Farag)



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Lowest ranks' pay? It hasn't been earned (7,6)
- Outlaw makes appeal to group (6)
- Publicity man with leaflet to make longer (8)
- One about to show temper (3)
- Give excitement, up to about an hour (6)
- TV programme about headgear, with demonstration (4,4)
- Diver had impediment in throat, going to island (7)
- One who complains sun's not so warm (7)
- Hurry up and tread that down! (4,2,2)
- Battle: call to start shooting (6)
- Get money, we hear, for vessel (3)
- Confused. I get data wrong (8)
- Jeer from the French before journey (6)
- Miscarriage of justice? (5,3,5)
- Directors see actors on these (6)
- Compete vigorously to win, and keep admirer waiting (4,4,2,3)
- Carved rood-screen led to secluded group of monks (8,5)
- In addition, I hear one and one (3)
- Low mood, almost (3)
- Dealer caught by member of dog team (8)
- It rarely works in books (8)
- Pupil sees boss point to books (7)
- Being fluent, love one's dialect (6)
- One stinging catch let fall (6)

DOWN

- Helpful to have heather as material for fire (8)
- From worker in factory, a lace abawl (8)
- Particular esteem (7)
- Country claiming part of Syrian Golan Heights (6)

SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Wreck, 4 Wined, 10 Almanac, 11 Erup, 12 Coast, 13 Rotting, 15 Gang, 17 Doing, 19 Rodeo, 20 Ewer, 25 Concede, 27 Adage, 28 Robed, 30 Ruinous, 31 Add, 32 Angle.

DOWN: 2 Rumba, 3 Consign, 5 Inert, 6 Erudite, 7 Saucy, 8 Score, 9 Stage, 14 Ogre, 16 Aged, 18 Omnibus, 20 Orator, 21 Scarf, 22 Weird, 24 Dense, 26 Ended, 28 Atoll.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Melodious (7)
- Notch (5)
- Norwegian composer (5)
- Climbed (7)
- Prophet of doom (9)
- Gallows (6)
- Pester constantly (6)
- Sick (3)
- Tumb (9)
- Dutch province (7)
- Measuring device (5)
- Boredom (5)
- Fashionable (7)

DOWN

- Sorcery (5)
- Snow-runner (8)
- Related (7)
- Greek 'I' (6)
- Aquahung (5)
- Paramedic (9)
- Infinite (7)
- Lieutenant (9)
- Whimper (7)
- Adverse reaction (7)
- Suit of cards (6)
- Hindu teacher (5)
- Soil (5)
- Garland (3)

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Helen Koye contributed to this report.

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LADY LUCK seems to have fallen in love with shipping, real estate and banking magnate Yuli Ofer. It's par for the course for him to win some of the prizes - usually the most valuable - at charity affairs which include a raffle draw.

This is usually because Ofer, whose philanthropy covers a broad spectrum, buys up a large batch of tickets. But at the gala Dror dinner to raise funds for group housing for discharged psychiatric patients, there was no sale. Each guest received one free ticket in appreciation for paying the admission fee.

First prize was a return flight to Johannesburg, the gift of South African Airways, plus seven days accommodation in the Hyatt Hotel. Ofer was not the only multimillionaire seated in the garden of South African Ambassador Frank Land and his wife, Maatchien; yet even before the draw, there were predictions that he would win the prize.

The pundits proved correct - but Ofer generously redonated the prize to be auctioned among the other guests. Keenest to purchase the bargain package was Dafna Kahalani, wife of Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, who put in a bid. Despite considerable competition, she finally won with her bid of NIS 4,500. Not bad, considering that

background during the most painful part of the circumcision ceremony. But that's not true of Sara Davidovich, socialite, gossip columnist and photographer of the rich and famous. As her new grandson Michael Malka was submitting to the unkindest cut of all, Davidovich, letting her professional instincts come to the fore, leapt forward, camera in hand, to capture the scene for posterity. Just in case her nerves caused the frames to be out of focus, there were video photographers on hand to ensure that the infant would eventually see his initiation into the faith, even if he couldn't remember it.

Among the guests at the lavish reception at Jerusalem's Shalom Hotel were country-and-western singer Susie Miller, fashion-show organizer and compere Ilana Margalit, lawyer and author Yehiel Gutman and international marriage broker Helena Amram. Also present were Israel's former ambassador to France Ovadia Sofer and his wife Doris, building tycoon Yehuda Yona, and real-estate developer Danny Rejwan and his wife, Devora, a travel agent, whose favorite cause is the Soldiers' Welfare Fund.

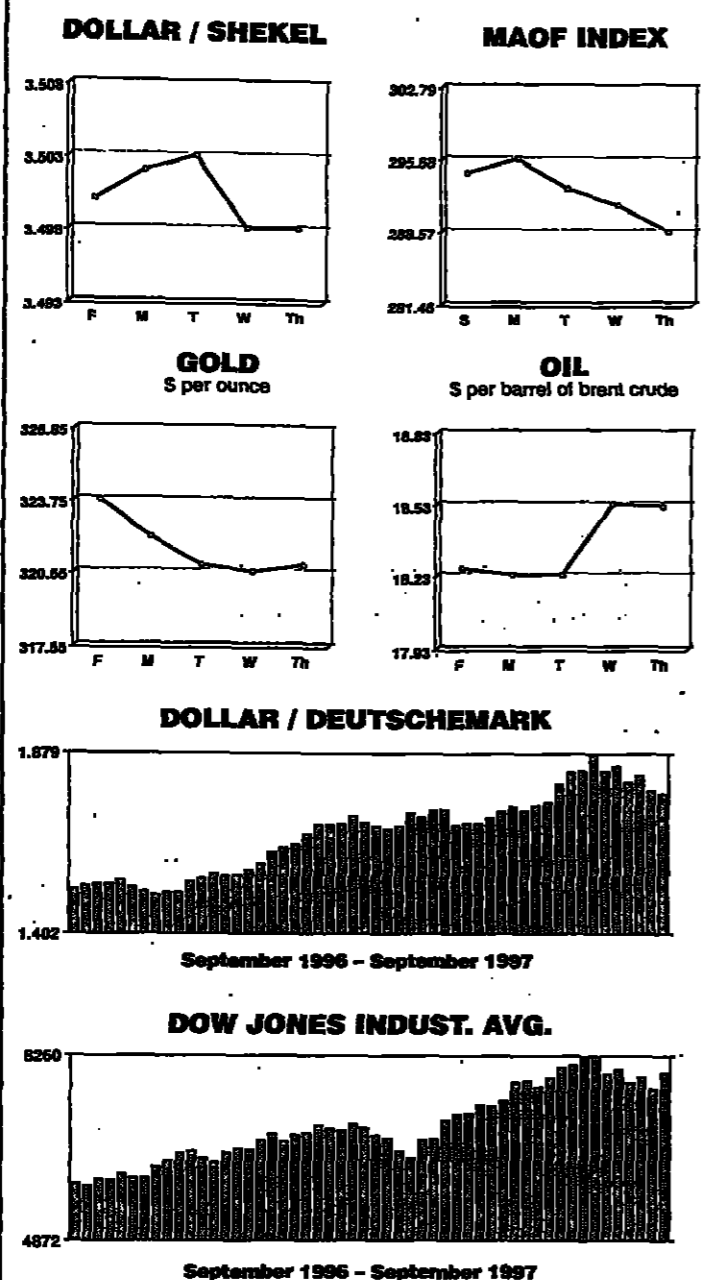
The baby's father, Shai Malka, who works in the Prime Minister's Office, was formerly Leah Rabin's driver. Grandpa Matti Davidovich, who used to be a popular pianist on the hotel circuit before becoming an investment consultant, was invited by the band to come up and play. He proved he hasn't lost his touch.

Dustin Hoffman will don a black tie to celebrate his Britannia award. (UPRA.)

DUE TO receive the seventh annual Britannia award from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in Los Angeles is Dustin Hoffman, who will be feasted next week at a gala black-tie affair at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel. Also receiving kudos will be Charlton Heston, Lauren Bacall, Bob Dylan, Jesse Norman and Edward Villella, the laureates for this year's Kennedy Center honors.

MARKETS

in brief



Elco wins \$50m. Electric Corp contract

The Israel Electric Corporation said yesterday it had granted Elco Industries a contract to supply medium-capacity transformers for \$50 million. Another contract, for the supply of two different transformers, was won by Ardan Industries, which will receive \$27 million.

The Electric Corp has an option to purchase more transformers at the same price within two years.

Another deal was announced yesterday by Cyalim, which said it will manufacture 90 kilometers of cable for the Korean concern Lucky Goldstar, in a deal worth \$20m. The company will produce the cables, which will be used by the Electric Corp, in its factories in Haifa and Karmiel.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Israeli firms' IPO revenues on Wall Street down 67% in '97

By DAN GERSTENFELD
and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The amount of money Israeli companies raised through initial public offerings on Wall Street plummeted 67 percent to \$152.9 million in the first eight months of the year, compared to \$456.7m. a year ago, data compiled by the *Jerusalem Post* indicates.

Conversely, money raised by Israeli companies via secondary offerings has increased 75% to \$292.2m., from \$167.2m. in the same period last year.

US investors' preference for safer investments in 1997 has driven the trend.

"The market's appetite for secondary offerings of tried and true companies is very strong," said Rob Goldman, chief analyst at Josephthal, Lyon & Ross in Washington, DC.

Nice Systems, which raised \$20m. in its 1996 IPO, raised another \$105.1m. in the

biggest secondary offering this year.

Overall, Wall Street generated \$28.11 billion in initial stock issues in the first eight months of the year, down from \$39.28b. in the same period last year. This is a 28% decline.

A number of factors are blamed for the drop in the Israeli IPO's, including Nasdaq's tougher criteria for going public, the availability of more venture capital money for later stage financing and a tendency of high-tech companies to wait longer before issuing stock.

"Now some of the venture capital funds that pushed companies to go public last year are telling them to hold their horses and invest more money to mature the start-ups before they go public," said Robin Hacke-Farhi, CEO of HK Strategy & Finance.

Moshe Shimony, head of derivatives in Bank Hapoalim's international division, said the drop was partly due to a growing interest of multinational companies in acquiring

Israeli technology companies.

"The foreigners are now buying the company itself, instead of buying shares," said Shimony. He cited Applied Materials' purchase of Opal and Orbotech and Cylink's acquisition of Research Algorithm.

The number of large stock offerings - IPO's of more than \$50m. - dropped the most significantly, causing the slide in the amount of money Israeli companies raised. In the first eight months of 1996, five companies raised a total of \$319.6m. In comparison, only Galileo, which raised \$51m. in its July IPO, crossed this threshold. The number of smaller IPO's remained stable.

Some analysts said the decrease in the number of large IPO's is not significant.

"This is totally coincidental," said Eddie Shalev, managing director of Oppenheimer & Co.'s Tel Aviv branch.

But other experts believe the phenomenon reflects cyclical changes in the marketplace.

Last year was a particularly strong year for IPO's, they said. High demand in certain niches, such as for Internet security software and Internet telephone products, attracted investors to Israeli start-ups such as Check Point and VocalTech.

The euphoria that drove the IPO craze last year also meant that some low-tech companies, such as seed producer Arzan, were able to raise money on Wall Street. This year, however, four companies representing non-high-tech sectors, postponed their IPO's indefinitely.

Despite the decline in the number of Israeli issues, analysts still believe Wall Street offers the best opportunities for local companies seeking to raise money.

"Most of the Israeli companies that want to go public in the US are high-tech companies and for them the American market holds the best prospects," said Shimony of Bank Leumi.

Katsav: El Al mustn't fly on Shabbat

By DAVID HARRIS

There is no need for El Al to operate on Shabbat, once the company is privatized, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav said yesterday.

"Shabbat flights should remain without change," he said. "Not flying on Shabbat does not affect profits."

Katsav said that when he was transport minister, El Al's profits peaked and there were no Shabbat flights at the time.

Known for his reservations about privatization in general, Katsav said El Al must be sold off, but on two conditions: The current level of security must be maintained and the workers' rights must be guaranteed.

The Ministerial Committee on Privatization will meet shortly to discuss the company's sale, with the Government Companies Authority (GCA) having this week announced it intends selling the national carrier in 1998.

Katsav also welcomed the sale of the School of Tourism to the University of Haifa for NIS 1,023 million. The sale was officially



Katsav: Profits won't change. (Israel Sun)

completed yesterday, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu receiving the check on behalf of the government.

"I won't bless privatization in every case, but this time it's right," said Katsav.

While the sale is only worth NIS 1m., every shekel helps the state, said Netanyahu, who claimed that the success of privatization has ensured the current round of budget cuts is no higher.

"If we hadn't received the NIS 8 billion [in privatization receipts]

this year, we'd have had to cut deeper in education and social welfare spending," said the Prime Minister.

Netanyahu then accused the Histadrut of being remote from reality and not understanding the importance of privatization and how it can help the workers in the long-term.

Netanyahu said that the privatization process will continue in 1998 and that there is still considerable interest in Israel's economic performance from foreign investors.

GCA director-general Tzipi Livni said the School of Tourism management had taken the perfect approach to privatization, by involving the workers at every stage of the process, leaving both sides more than happy with the end result.

During the formal ceremony in the Prime Minister's Office, Katsav spoke directly to Netanyahu about the "crisis" in the tourism industry. Pointing to the improved tourism figures in the key June-July period, Katsav said he hopes the statistics were "not a one-off, but the start of a trend."

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Kesselman, Somekh CPA firms likely to merge

By DAN GERSTENFELD
and news agencies

Israel's two largest accounting firms, Kesselman & Kesselman and Somekh-Chaikin, may merge following a planned joining of international accounting firms Coopers & Lybrand and Price-Waterhouse.

The Israeli companies are local representatives of the two firms that announced yesterday they would combine into the world's largest accounting and consulting firm.

The combination would vault Price Waterhouse and Coopers ahead of industry leader Arthur Andersen Worldwide, and second-ranked Ernst & Young, and whittle the so-called Big Six accounting firms down to five.

The merger comes amid consolidation in the financial services industry worldwide. It is the first to affect the accounting and consulting industry since two mergers at the end of the 1980s turned the Big Eight firms into the Big Six.

Our decision to combine has been driven by the recognition that our clients require seamless global support and levels of expertise that, until now, were simply not available from any one organization," said Coopers chairman Nicholas Moore in a statement.

Moore will be chairman of the merged firm. James Schiro, chief executive of Price Waterhouse, will be chief executive. The companies didn't say what the name of the merged firm would be.

The two companies' combined global revenue in fiscal 1996 would have been \$11.8 billion, compared with \$9.5 billion for Andersen Worldwide and \$7.8 billion for Ernst & Young.

Coopers had fee income of \$6.8 billion last year and Price Waterhouse had income of \$5.02 billion. All the firms are privately held by partners and don't disclose profits.

"When the deal was being thought of, the more they looked into it the more they realized the two firms were a perfect match," said Sam Jaffa, head of media relations at Price.

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists Israeli stocks traded in New York.

AMEX

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists stocks traded on the AMEX.

NASDAQ

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists stocks traded on the NASDAQ.

NYSE

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists stocks traded on the NYSE.

NEW YORK

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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TASE drops for 3rd straight day

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stocks and their prices.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stocks and their prices.

Tel Aviv
Stocks dropped for a third day amid concern about unrest in Ras al-Amud.

STOCKS
Maof 288.57 v 0.89%
Dow Jones 7923 v 0.46%
FTSE 5046.2 v 0.66%
Nikkei 17930.09 v 1.4%

Wall Street
Stocks rose only modestly yesterday after investors locked in some gains from an afternoon rally that put the Dow Jones industrial average back above 8,000 for the first time in nearly a month.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stocks and their prices.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stocks and their prices.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES
SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 18-SEP-97)

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES
DJ Industrials 7922.72 v +0.28
DJ Transport 2418.71 v -0.74
DJ Energy 2931.11 v +1.28

Asia
Japanese stocks rose, led by automakers such as Toyota, amid optimism over the company's reported expansion plans and expectations the dollar's strength will bolster profits.

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OTHER MARKET INDEXES
FTSE 100 5046.2 v +0.66%
Nikkei 17930.09 v +1.4%

Europe
UK stocks advanced as a host of corporate earnings reports eclipsed persistent concern that interest rates may rise again before year-end.

Asia
Japanese stocks rose, led by automakers such as Toyota, amid optimism over the company's reported expansion plans and expectations the dollar's strength will bolster profits.

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DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)
Pound spot 1.6112 v -0.0137
Euro spot 1.6366 v -0.0082

Yen falls to a four-month low against dollar
The dollar rallied to a four-month high against the yen, as traders looked past a report showing a bigger US trade deficit and focused on recent signs Japan's economy is lagging.

CURRENCIES
Dollar 3.498 No change
Mark 1.9797 v 0.31%

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US COMMODITIES
Cocoa (Dec) 1.678 v +0.010
Coffee (Nov) 1.480 v -0.010

White sugar falls amid expectations of larger crops
White sugar prices fell as traders and analysts bet several Chinese smelters still have large outstanding commitments to deliver metal they don't own at a time when supply is scarce.

COMMODITIES
Gold \$320.95 v 0.7%
Crude Oil \$18.52 v 0.11%

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Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stocks and their prices.

PRECIOUS METALS
Gold prices rose for a fifth day amid optimism that steady growth and subdued inflation will give the Federal Reserve little reason to raise bank lending rates soon.

Oil
Brent crude futures were little changed to lower, continuing Wednesday's decline after US industry reports showed crude oil and refined products supplies rose.

Others
Copper rose for a second day in London amid expectations strong US economic growth will boost metal consumption in the coming months in the world's largest economy.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stocks and their prices.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stocks and their prices.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES
Gold (Dec) 320.95 v +0.70%
Silver (Dec) 4.050 v +0.010

US bonds rise amid optimism for steady growth
US bonds rose for a fifth day amid optimism that steady growth and subdued inflation will give the Federal Reserve little reason to raise bank lending rates soon.

FAMILIES
Continued from Page 1
"Young married brides are replaced by unmarried men looking for brides," he said.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stocks and their prices.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stocks and their prices.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (3.9.97)
Currency (deposit rate) 3 MONTHS 6 MONTHS 12 MONTHS

BONDS
US 30-year bill yield 6.36 v 0.4

LEBANON
Continued from Page 1
The fierce exchange of fire continued, with IDF gunners pounding Hizbullah positions for over an hour.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stocks and their prices.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stocks and their prices.

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS
Currency basket 3.7292 v 3.7894

LEBANON
Continued from Page 1
The IDF said it would set up an inquiry to determine the reasons for Shimoni's death.

LEBANON
Continued from Page 1
The IDF said it would set up an inquiry to determine the reasons for Shimoni's death.

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	Held on	Start date	Held on	Start date
TECHNICAL WRITING (morning session)	Sun., Tue., Thur., 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Oct. 30	Sun., Tue., Thur., 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Dec. 14
TECHNICAL WRITING (evening session)	Sun., Tue., Thur., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Oct. 30	Sun., Tue., Thur., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Dec. 14
WEB PUBLISHING	Wednesdays 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 5	Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Nov. 5
CNE Express Track (7 courses)	Mon. & Wed. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Nov. 10	Tue. & Thur. 12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Nov. 11
CNE Regular Track (7 courses)	Mon. & Wed. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 10	Tue. & Thur. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 11
WINDOWS NT MCSE Express Track (6 courses)	Tue. & Thur. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Jan. 6	Mon. & Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Nov. 10
WINDOWS NT MCSE Regular Track (6 courses)	Tue. & Thur. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Jan. 6	Mon. & Wed. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 10
"A++" PC SUPPORT ENGINEER (incl. OVA)	Sun. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 16	Wed. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Nov. 12
MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT	Wed. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Nov. 12	Sun. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Dec. 7
VISUAL C++	Mon. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Nov. 17	Sun. 12 noon - 3 p.m.	Dec. 7
VISUAL BASIC	Mon. 12 noon - 3 p.m.	Nov. 10	Sun. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Nov. 9
C/C++ PROGRAMMING	Mon. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 17	Mon. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Nov. 17
COREL DRAW	Mon. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Nov. 24	Wed. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Nov. 26

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BOOKNEWS FROM ARTSCROLL
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NOW IN HEBREW, AS WELL AS ENGLISH!
The Schottenstein Edition of the Talmud is now available in Hebrew and English. This is a historic moment for the Jewish people. The completion of the Talmud is a milestone in Jewish history. The Schottenstein Edition is the most complete and accurate edition of the Talmud ever published. It is now available in Hebrew and English. This is a historic moment for the Jewish people. The completion of the Talmud is a milestone in Jewish history. The Schottenstein Edition is the most complete and accurate edition of the Talmud ever published. It is now available in Hebrew and English. This is a historic moment for the Jewish people. The completion of the Talmud is a milestone in Jewish history. The Schottenstein Edition is the most complete and accurate edition of the Talmud ever published. It is now available in Hebrew and English. This is a historic moment for the Jewish people. The completion of the Talmud is a milestone in Jewish history. 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Georgie Arazi, editor of Readers' Letters, dies

Georgie Arazi, who edited the Readers' Letters section of *The Jerusalem Post* for almost 30 years, died on Wednesday.

Georgie, who was born to a diamond merchant's family in Antwerp, lost her father at the tender age of eight. Subsequently, she was raised by her mother and an English nanny who taught her to speak, read and write English.

More to the point, they both inculcated in her a number of cardinal virtues - such as dependability, punctuality, honesty, tolerance and fortitude - which have become increasingly unfashionable.

When Hitler launched his blitzkrieg, Georgie fled with the members of her immediate family via France and Portugal to the US. The rest of the Goldberg family perished in the Holocaust.

In New York Georgie eventually found work as a journalist and, at the UN, she met Tuvia Arazi, a representative of the Jewish community in Palestine. In 1947, when her mother made it clear that she had other plans for her, Georgie eloped - or rather, she left New York and joined Tuvia in Palestine, where they were married.

After serving in the Hagana in Haifa and in the Israeli delegation at the Lausanne peace talks, Tuvia joined the Foreign Ministry. For the next 20 years he was posted to Turkey, several South

American countries and - after a stint at the UN during the Sinai campaign - Cyprus. Her upbringing enabled Georgie to perform the arduous, and unpaid, duties of His Excellency's wife as if to the manor born.

Tuvia died in 1973 and Georgie had to face a long widowhood with three children to raise. After they had left the nest she found consolation in her grandchildren, classical music, her cats and her work at the *Post*.

"*Quot homines, tot sententiae*," as Terence said. "So many men, so many different opinions." Some of the people who wrote letters to the editor, however, had an opinion on every conceivable topic and appeared to spend their lives in a state of permanent indignation.

Whether they were *bien pensants* or saber rattlers, Georgie - who kept her own opinions to herself - dealt with them firmly but tactfully.

Georgie died on the last day of her sick leave. It is some small consolation to know that she died in harness for she made plain that she dreaded the prospect of retirement.

Before her final illness, in fact, she sometimes endured chemotherapy in the morning, then insisted on returning to work in the afternoon.

In every friend we lose, Pope once wrote, we lose part of ourselves.

Georgie Arazi



Ben-Ari released to house arrest

By BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

After spending about four months in prison, Zvi Ben-Ari (formerly Gregory Lerner), was granted permission yesterday to be released to house arrest.

He will have to post NIS 5 million bail, said to be one of the highest bail fees ever set in the country. In addition, Ben-Ari has been ordered to give the court a personal guarantee of NIS 5 m.

Ben-Ari, 46, will also have to deposit his passport with the police, and a restraining order prevents him from leaving the country.

In issuing his ruling, Jerusalem District Court Judge Eliahu Ben-Zimra agreed to a prosecution request to keep Ben-Ari in custody until Sunday, pending a state appeal to the Supreme Court against his release.

If he ends up being freed from jail, Ben-Ari will have to remain in a detached house without neighbors that is located at least 20 kilometers from the coast. Ben-Zimra put these conditions in answer to fears that Ben-Ari would try to flee the country.

He will only be able to leave the home to report to the nearest police sta-

tion on a daily basis. Ben-Ari's house will also be fitted with electronic monitoring equipment and he will have to wear a device on his leg and arm that will enable the police to follow his movements.

A closed-circuit television system will be set up in the yard. He will not be permitted to use any wireless equipment. The bill for all these safety devices will have to be footed by Ben-Ari himself, the court ruled.

He will not be permitted contact with former partners and employees, nor with persons who have credit claims

from him. There were reports, during his detention, that Ben-Ari - who used to travel in an expensive vehicle accompanied by bodyguards - had worked out an elaborate escape scheme.

Ben-Ari was charged September 7 with 14 counts of fraud, blackmail and attempted blackmail. He was accused of trying to defraud banks in Israel, Russia and Europe of some \$100 million.

He was also accused of trying to enlist the help of politicians when he couldn't get permission to open an Israeli-Russian bank.

Historian: Yemenite infants weren't kidnapped

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

There is no archival evidence that Yemenite immigrant children were kidnapped in the early days of the state, historian Dr. Tom Segev said yesterday.

Segev, who testified yesterday before the Cohen Commission, dismissed claims made on Channel 2 Wednesday night by Agudat Yisrael chairman Menahem Porush that the children were systematically kidnapped by social workers, and that Youth Aliya employees were also involved.

Porush said: "The intention was clear: Children are coming now from Yemen, families with many children, let's take the children away from them. And that's what they did." He said that while he did not witness any of the kidnappings, he had heard about them. But he added that then-prime minister David Ben-Gurion knew nothing about them.

Segev, a *Ha'aretz* journalist who wrote a book entitled 1949: *The First Israelis*, said he was asked by the three-judge panel yesterday about two specific matters. "First they asked me whether there was any evidence that Yemenite children were kidnapped in order to give them an Ashkenazi education," Segev said.

"I told them there was absolutely no archival material to support such a claim," Segev said.

He said Agudat Yisrael officials handed out care packages to families, while Labor officials threatened the Yemenites that they would not be given Histadrut jobs or be accepted into Histadrut health plans if they didn't send their youngsters to their schools, "but there is no basis for the other claims."

Segev said the judges then asked him whether it was true that couples who were Holocaust survivors were particularly keen to adopt children. Segev said

he explained that "what they wanted to do was to give birth to children, not adopt them." He noted that the birth rate in the displaced persons camps in Europe had been extremely high.

Segev said he had told the panel he believed that the children had died, and that for the parents "it is easier for them to say that the government took the children away than to say God took them away."

However, Segev stressed that part of the problem was the negative attitude displayed at the time towards the immigrants, who he said sometimes were not told if their child died.

When the Yemenite immigrants first arrived, "there was a sort of folkloristic affection for them, but they were primarily seen as a social problem," Segev said. He said there were even those who believed that the British in Aden had allowed the Yemenites to come to Israel to serve as a "social time-bomb" inside

the new state.

"There was a tendency to want to change them," Segev said, "because they were regarded as being primitive." Segev said he told the panel to read a 1959 report from the welfare authorities about the period, during which time it was controlled by Agudat Yisrael. The report, according to Segev, said the Yemenites were treated very badly during those years, "like primitive beings."

Meanwhile, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav said yesterday that Porush's remarks "provide a basis for the claim that there was an organized campaign to grab the children of immigrants in the early 1950s, and these were criminal acts befitting sinister regimes."

Katsav added that Porush's remarks were the first chilling testimony by someone who was close to the government at that time.

Itim contributed to this report.

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FUNDS

Toys R You

By BEVERLEE BLACK

Following the worldwide criticism of the media after the alleged paparazzi-induced death of Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed, I'm happy that the paper I work for is more than a market-oriented scandal sheet.

I'm reminded of this as the 50th anniversary of the start of our Toy Fund comes around this Hanukka.

In 1948, thousands of new immigrants were living in rain-soaked tents in muddy fields. Hanukka was approaching.

Jerusalem Post staffer Helen Rossi approached the editor, Ted Lurie, with the idea that the paper should make an appeal to our readers to give toys, new and second-hand, to be distributed to children of the *ma'abarot*. The response from our readers was overwhelming.

And thus *The Jerusalem Post* Toy Fund was born.

Today, the tent camps are no more, but the needs of the country's underprivileged are still great.

This Hanukka, as in previous years, in the knowledge that you will not let them down, I am allocating moneys to the various local councils to purchase and distribute toys, games and books to over 14,000 youngsters.

All I need is the money to pay for the goods when the bills come in. Please don't let me down.

And don't forget that the Forsake Me Not and the Welcome Home Fund need your help as well. Requests have already started coming in for heaters, blankets, and warm clothing in anticipation of the cold winter months ahead.

There is so much more we can do. All we need are the means with which to do it.

Send your checks today to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000.

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NIS 100 B.G., Tel Aviv. In memory of those recently fallen in Jerusalem and Lebanon. In memory of our

unforgettable nephew, Danny Frei - Blanche and Shlomo Brenner, Pardes Hanna.

NIS 80 in memory of Manya, beloved daughter of Marianne Karmon - Dina. In memory of my husband, Philip, my mother, Bertha Barash and my son-in-law, Yisrael Eilman - Fania Horwitz, Kibbutz Yasur.

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NIS 100 B. G., Tel Aviv.

\$680 in honor of our daughter Gabrielle's continued good health - Susan and Mel Fastow, Bayside, NY.

\$50 Doug Parker, Springfield, GA. \$40 B. L. White, Franklin, TX. \$30 Lee and Herta Arnold, Kibbutz Neot Mordechai.

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Indyk: Arafat's weakening

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has "been reluctant" to crack down on Hamas because he's in a "politically weaker position" than he was when he cracked down last year, US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk told the Senate Near East subcommittee yesterday.

"There is no doubt" that Hamas's infrastructure exists in the autonomous areas, as well as in Area C under Israel's control, and "there's a lot [Arafat] can do" to uproot the group, Indyk said.

While the US is asking Arafat to crack down

Histadrut plans to keep up pressure on government

By DAVID HARRIS

Some 1,000 Histadrut members are scheduled to demonstrate outside the Prime Minister's Office at 10 a.m. on Sunday, in the latest stage of the labor federation's opposition to planned budget cuts, structural reforms in the economy, and pension changes.

This follows a week of demonstrations involving tens of thousands of workers throughout the country.

The demonstration will be considerably smaller than that planned, because the police said it would not allow thousands of protesters to gather by the key government buildings. The Histadrut expressed disappointment that the police had restricted the size of the demonstration, after having initially given permission for a larger gathering.

Among those participating in the action will be disabled and older people, with the Histadrut keen to make the point that it represents those often unable to help themselves.

Earlier in the week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched an unprecedented attack against the Histadrut, saying its actions both today and under the previous government are a direct cause of mounting unemployment, and its action is only aimed at aiding higher income workers.

Others taking part in the march include representatives of the Public Works Department, which is facing closure and being replaced by private companies.



Parking was a free-for-all in Tel Aviv and seven other towns yesterday, as traffic wardens walked off the job. (Yael Sonektiv/Israel Sun)

White the workers are demonstrating, senior Histadrut leaders will meet in Jerusalem to discuss the health service funding crisis

and what future industrial action to take against the government. Disruptions were felt across the country yesterday, as thousands of workers once again staged a series

of stoppages. There was parking chaos as traffic wardens staged a one-day strike, allowing parking on a free-for-all basis in eight towns.

Protesting doctors continue sanctions

By JUDY SIEGEL

On Sunday, the country's doctors, who are protesting about the Treasury's failure to carry out an agreement on adding hospital staff and its plans to shrink the national health insurance system, will impose sanctions on the center of the country.

Outpatient clinics at the following hospitals will be closed: Ichilov in Tel Aviv, the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva, Assaf Harofeh in Tzrifin, Wolfson in Holon, Meir in Kfar Sava, Kaplan in Rehovot, Sheba at Tel Hashomer, Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva, and Beil Loewinstein in Ra'anana.

In addition, outpatient clinics at these psychiatric and geriatric institutions will be shut down: Abarbanel in Bat Yam, Be'er Ya'acov, Beit Rivka, and Geva in Petah Tikva, Hartzfeld in Gedera, Lev Hasharon in Pardesya, the Mental Health Center in Jaffa, Malben in Rishon LeZion, Nes Ziona, Pardes Katz, Shmuel Harofeh in Be'er Ya'acov, and Shalvata in Hod Hasharon.

The Israel Medical Association, which is organizing the work action, says it does not intend "at this stage" to disrupt the health system completely "out of concern for public health."

But IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar said that there won't be any way to avoid additional strikes, if the Treasury continues to ignore the doctors' demands.

The IMA and the Treasury signed an accord last March increasing by 360 job slots over the next four years the number of public hospital doctors. But the IMA and the Health Ministry say the Finance Ministry has reneged, insisting that the hospitals themselves must absorb the costs.

The IMA said yesterday it is considering legal steps against the government for violating the agreement. "The public know that the doctors are striking for the benefit of the patients. Their health and dignity are harmed when they lie in hospital corridors," it said.

"We have reached a stage where we have lost faith in Treasury officials. From now on, we shall be satisfied only with the signature of the finance minister himself, not that of his underlings. Before that happens, there's nothing to talk about."

Treasury budget chief David Milgrom said the IMA's strike "is strange" as the Finance Ministry "is carrying out all its commitments" regarding hospital manpower.

"We regard the shutting down of vital services as baseless and unprecedented," Milgrom said. Meanwhile, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza has approved regulations that require all public hospitals to report in detail hospitalizations and other medical activities. This will allow better and more effective supervision and help the ministry identify superfluous treatments.

The data collected will also be of great help to medical researchers, especially epidemiologists, the ministry said.

The ministry said the rules of patient privacy will be strictly observed. Final approval of the regulations will be granted shortly. They will go into effect 90 days after being published in Reshumot.

WEATHER

Haifa	20-27
Tiberias	21-34
Afula	18-33
Samaris	18-25
Tel Aviv	22-27
Jerusalem	18-25
BeerSheva	20-31
Dead Sea	22-31
Eilat	24-36

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy. Slight breeze. Lower temperatures than average.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High
Amsterdam	11	17
Berlin	12	18
Brussels	12	18
Geneva	12	18
London	12	18
Madrid	12	18
Moscow	12	18
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Paris	12	18
Rome	12	18
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Zurich	12	18

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